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GEN ROGERS' REPLY TO BLOC: INCREASE NATO BUDGET

LD122001 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Mar 84

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] U.S. General Rogers, commander-in-chief of the joint NATO forces in Europe, has issued a statement demanding that European members of the North Atlantic bloc increase their allocations for military purposes. Over to Valentin Zorin, political observer for central television:

[Zorin] Good day comrades. General Rogers has taken upon himself the task of responding to one of the most important political initiatives of the Warsaw Treaty states. Most probably he had been charged with this task. As you know, the Warsaw Treaty states issued a proposal on 5 March addressed to the NATO countries to start talks on not increasing but reducing military expenditures.

One need hardly say much about the constructive nature of a step like this, about the good will of those who took it. The reaction was immediate. Clearly with Washington's approval, the NATO troops' commander demanded that his European partners increase their military budgets. It is significant, moreover, that the White House charged the American general with the task of expressing a negative attitude to the peace-loving proposal of the socialist countries. Here we have a definite distribution of roles. The Washington administration has assumed, as everyone knows, the role of peace champion. Statements following this line are coming thick and fast from the American capital. Of course, not a single concrete step is being taken to support such statements -- but that's a minor detail, as they say.

But all it took was for the Warsaw Treaty states to make their new peace-loving initiative for the second participant in Washington's double game to be put into play -- the Pentagon general and NATO commander. Without sparing a world for the proposal of the socialist countries, General Rogers essentially rejected it on behalf of Washington, proposing that America's NATO partners continue to build up their military spending.

And what about Washington's European partners? How did they react to the crude shouts of the American general? So far they haven't said a word. Well, not in public, at least.

Washington's double game goes on, but it is impossible to play it for long. Self-exposure, such as General Roger's speech, shows the world public where the truth is and where the lies are.

NATO Strategy Remarks Criticized

LD122037 Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] The NATO supreme allied commander in Europe, General Rogers of the United States, made two statements last week concerning NATO's military strategy. More from our observer Nikolay Gratsianov, and this is what he writes.

In his statements, at a House committee and in Philadelphia, Gen Rogers maintained that the distinguishing feature of NATO's strategy is the readiness to be the first to use nuclear arms. New American Pershing II's and cruise missiles being deployed in Western Europe and targetted on the Soviet Union and other socialist countries will be serving as instruments of that strategy.

There was hardly any new element in the general's statements. He was among those who always insisted on the deployment of all the 572 American missiles on the European continent and opposed the proposal urging the Western nuclear countries to follow the Soviet Union's example and take upon themselves a pledge not to be the first to use nuclear arms.

Significantly, the NATO supreme allied commander in Europe made his military statements at a time when the desire was advertised by Washington and a number of NATO capitals in Europe for a dialogue with the Soviet Union, when the White House showed what it termed as its good intentions concerning the opening of constructive talks on a reduction of nuclear arms. There is no discrepancy, though. Simply Gen Rogers says aloud what the American Administration preferred to conceal after frustrating the Soviet-American dialogue on reducing nuclear potentials in Europe. As before, the American Administration is seeking to ensure NATO's military Supremacy over the Warsaw Treaty Organization and prepare the ground for waging a so-called limited nuclear war in the European continent. Washington still turns a deaf ear on the Soviet Union's statements that all its proposals for lowering the level of nuclear confrontation in Europe will remain in force provided the United States and other NATO countries are prepared to return to the situation which had existed in Europe before the deployment of American missiles. It turns a deaf ear on the call to work step by step on the basis of the principle of equality and equal security towards a total reduction of nuclear arms down to their complete destruction in all the forms. It turns a deaf ear on the proposal of the Warsaw Treaty countries to start as early as possible talks on a commitment not to increase and subsequently reduce military spending. Moreover, the American Congress is considering a military budget which is two or two and a half times bigger than those of 3 or 4 years ago.

As the Soviet leader, Konstantin Chernenko, put it recently, the statement of good intentions of the American Administration can be taken seriously only if it is backed by concrete deeds. So far there have been no such deeds. Instead, we hear an American general talk about NATO's need to prepare for being the first to use nuclear arms.

UN NEWS CONFERENCE DEVOTED TO CHERNENKO PROPOSALS

LD122137 Moscow TASS in English 2110 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] New York March 12 TASS -- A news conference was held at the U.N. headquarters in New York, devoted to the Soviet initiatives in normalizing international relations and improving the political climate in the world, put forward by the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Konstantin Chernenko in his electoral speech.

Speaking at the news conference, R. Ovinnikov, first deputy to the Soviet chief delegate at the United Nations, pointed out that the situation continues tense, and the reasons for this are to be sought in the policy of the most aggressive forces of U.S. imperialism. He pointed out the danger posed to the cause of peace by the recent U.S. actions in the Persian Gulf area where the U.S. naval fleet is establishing its own "security zones" against the generally accepted international norms of the freedom of navigation. The hostile operations against Nicaragua are growing in scope.

As is stressed in Konstantin Chernenko's speech, of key importance to the peace and security of the peoples is the need to bridle the nuclear arms race. The USA still refuses to take concrete steps in this direction. The USSR representative also pointed to the major significance of the proposal, contained in the speech by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on the norms for the relations between nuclear powers, that would contribute to consolidating peace and security. The Soviet Union stands prepared to agree on the joint recognition of the norms of this kind investing them with a binding character.

U.S. SHUNS UN COMMITTEE ON INDIAN OCEAN

LD122211 Moscow TASS in English 2011 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] New Delhi March 12 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Bokhonko writes:

The United States intends to decrease sharply its participation in the United Nations ad hoc committee on the Indian Ocean, the India Press service news agency reported today.

India Press Service writes that this step by the USA is fully in keeping with the present U.S. policy of obstruction of the United Nations bodies conducted by the Reagan administration. Thus, the United States already announced its withdrawal from UNESCO. Washington threatened in February to quit the United Nations committee on peaceful uses of outer space.

Local political observers are of the opinion that the United States' intention to reduce its participation in the United Nations ad hoc committee on the Indian Ocean is the show of Washington's displeasure with the activity of the committee which in accordance with the will of the majority of the state of the Indian Ocean area is striving to turn the Indian Ocean into a peace zone. The efforts of peoples interested in the ensurance of security and consolidation of peace and stability in the region go against the grain with the U.S. ruling circles that assumed the course at the establishment of their domination in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean area.

Having launched the unprecedented military preparations in the area Washington constantly torpedoes any efforts aimed at convening international forums on the problems of demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean. The international conference on the Indian Ocean that was planned initially to be held in Colombo in 1980 cannot be held to this day because of the United States' opposition. The United States disrupted unilaterally the talks on the limitation of military activity in the Indian Ocean. For the same reason Washington gave a hostile reception to the peace proposals of the Soviet Union on mutual limitation of the activity of navies and the spread of confidence-building measures to sea and ocean areas.

The course of the United States which runs counter to the aspirations of peoples and contradicts the interests of peace is causing justifiable concern in India. Speaking in the debate at the current session of parliament here India's Minister of External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao pointed out [word indistinct] might turn into a dangerous seat of international tension.

This threatens India's security, undermines peace and stability in South Asia.

U.S. 'MIGHT RECONSIDER' DECISION ON UNESCO

LD091247 Moscow TASS in English 1201 GMT 9 Mar 84

[Text] Washington March 9 TASS -- To put under its influence the United States to further U.S. plans, hostile to the cause of peace and detente, is the aim of the campaign of malicious attacks on the United Nations and its specialized institutions, such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the campaign which was unleashed by the U.S. Administration. The evidence of that is the speech made at the House Subcommittee on Science and Technology by U.S. representative at UNESCO J. Cherlin.

She overtly stated that the Washington administration might consider its decision on quitting the organization but only if the UNESCO's leadership gives up practically all basic directions in its activities. She demanded in the first place that UNESCO should sharply reduce programmes in support of disarmament.

HYPOCRISY OF U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY DENOUNCED

LD121111 Moscow TASS in English 1110 GMT 12 Mar 84

["Which Pronouncement Should One Trust?" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

Let us compare two pronouncements concerning Washington's conceptions on major matters of war and peace. The first of them belongs to the President of the United States. When addressing the 38th session of the U.N. General Assembly in September last year and trying hard to pose and to present Washington in the role of such a "universal peace-maker". He proclaimed with fervour that a nuclear war cannot be won and that one should not wage it at all. Here is the other pronouncement on the same topic made this month and belonging to Mr Hart, NBC correspondent at the Pentagon, a not so high-ranking American but undoubtedly a sufficiently knowledgeable one. According to him, the official doctrine of the United States is now based on the concept admitting a possibility of the conduct of a controllable and winnable nuclear war.

The peoples judge the policy of some or other states and governments in our days by their deeds, not words. In the recent period of time when preparation for elections is getting under way in the United States, the U.S. President and his closest entourage do not stint dovelike speeches which are designed to bring it home to the American public, and not only American one, that the greatest concern of the White House is how to avert the threat of a nuclear catastrophe and to check the speeded-up material preparation for war. Those are words. As far as Washington's real policy is concerned, it is oriented today, just as yesterday, along diametrically opposite lines. The reign of militarism in the USA goes on, and appropriations for military purposes have assumed proportions that are unprecedented in the country's history: At present, for example, the Pentagon is busy putting through Congress a 313,000-million-dollar budget for the 1984 fiscal year. By the end of the decade the budget is planned to be brought up to 465,000 million dollars.

The deployment of U.S. first-strike nuclear weapons in the territories of a number of West European states is being continued at an accelerated pace, and Western Europe, which is being turned into a hostage of another's policy, is already overtly referred to in Washington as a potential "theatre of operations". The USA stubbornly refuses to follow the USSR's example and to assume an obligation not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. The Soviet proposals on a freeze on nuclear arms and on seeking to reduce the arms step by step on the basis of the principle of equal security, right up to full elimination of all varieties of them, also remain without reply on the part of Washington.

All these facts show what a huge gap divides Washington's "peaceable" rhetoric and its real policy which remains based on counting on force and on endeavours to upset by any means the established approximate military and strategic parity in Europe and in the world so as to dictate its will to others upon getting a longer and sharper nuclear sword. Moreover: According to the above mentioned Mr. Hart who bases himself on the Pentagon's data, a secret plan enumerating the targets of a U.S. nuclear attack entered into force in the USA way back in October last year, and a rehearsal of the start of a third world war is already now under way at a military base in South Dakota where nuclear weapons are stored.

And what is the result? Speaking from the U.N. rostrum, the President of the United States said that one should not wage a nuclear war at all. Meanwhile Washington continues feverishly to build up nuclear arsenals, blocks and leads into blind alleys all talks on curbing the arms race. The White House practices exercises in launching propaganda fireworks displays on the subject of U.S. striving for peace and, as NBC reports, already now marks out on geographical maps what targets a first nuclear strike should be directed against. They engage in rhetoric about their "yearning for a dialogue" with the USSR and at the same time, according to the self-same NBC, note that there are sixty targets for a nuclear attack within Moscow boundaries alone. In so doing they fail to take into account, of course, that the USSR has enough means by which it is possible if necessary to damp the ardour of the bellicose adventurists.

The facts given by NBC are yet new vivid evidence of the real value of Washington's hypocritical assertions as to the USA's peaceableness. Those facts confirm that Washington continues to orient itself in its foreign policy not toward a business-like and constructive dialogue but counts on force and, trying to pose as peace-maker, continues the course towards increasing confrontation. It is only Washington that should bear the entire responsibility for the dangerous consequences of such an adventuristic policy.

EAGLEBURGER DISPLEASED WITH EUROPEAN ALLIES

PM120933 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Mar 84 Second Edition p 5

[Yuriy Kharlanov "Commentator's Column": "Forward Into the Mire"]

[Text] U.S. Under Secretary of State L. Eagleburger is displeased with the behavior of America's West European allies. Addressing a press conference in Washington, he stated that the West European's stance is becoming increasingly limited and is "progressively failing to tally with U.S. policy." If this continues, Eagleburger predicted, the emphasis of American foreign policy will be shifted from relations with West Europe to relations with the countries of the Pacific Ocean region, above all Japan.

West European newspapers, citing well-informed diplomatic circles, explained that this statement by Washington's "devtoee of shooting from the hip," as Eagleburger has been described by the Western press, contains a certain new element. It is not just a question of the usual dissensions between the United States and West Europe over the artificially high rate for the dollar and American interest rates, the "steel war" between monopolies on both sides of the Atlantic, or disagreements on the questions of East-West trade.

At present, Washington is extremely irritated by the European allies' flaccid and reluctant support of the Washington administration's interventionist course in the Caribbean, the Near East, and other regions of the world.

And Eagleburger is not unique here. They understood extremely well in West Europe what R. Burt, U.S. assistant secretary for European and Canadian affairs, meant when he recalled that seven leading powers of the capitalist world had signed a statement in Williamsburg to the effect that "our countries' security is indivisible and that it should be approached on a global basis." And since it is on a "global scale," that means kindly following Washington into the mire of any adventure anywhere in the world.

Many U.S. allies have already burned their fingers as a result of this "indivisibility." France does not know how to extricate itself from the Chad conflict, which it got involved in under U.S. pressure.

In Lebanon, Washington placed its partners in the Multinational Force in an absurd situation. As THE WASHINGTON POST writes, French and Italian Government representatives are now privately expressing their "surprise and indignation" in this regard.

And Washington's demands that its allies fine-tune their own policy in line with the present U.S. Administration's militarist course will scarcely alleviate this tension or eliminate the mutual reproaches and complaints now echoing like a whiplash.

WAYS SITED FOR U.S. TO PROVE PEACEFUL INTENT

PM131216 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Mar 84 First Edition p 6

[Political observer Vsevolod Ovchinnikov article: "Love of Peace Is Demonstrated by Deeds"]

[Text] The Soviet Union, as a great socialist power, fully recognizes its responsibility to the peoples for maintaining and consolidating peace. We are open to peaceful mutually advantageous cooperation with states of all continents. We favor the peaceful solution of all disputed international problems by means of serious, equitable, and constructive talks. As was stressed at the CPSU Central Committee February (1984) Plenum, the Soviet country will cooperate fully with all states that are ready to help reduce international tension through practical deeds.

Wherever questions of war and peace are discussed today, the question of trust -- without which really serious and honest dialogue leading to the achievements of specific accords is unthinkable -- inevitably comes to the fore.

"Recently," Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, said in his speech to voters, "The U.S. Administration has started to make peaceable-sounding statements, calling us to 'dialogue'.

"People's attention throughout the world has been drawn by the fact that these statements sharply contradict everything which the current U.S. Administration has said, and most importantly, has done and is continuing to do in its relations with the Soviet Union. Assurances of its good intentions can only be taken seriously if they are backed up by real deeds."

Commenting on the White House's election demagoguery in connection with the Soviet leader's speech, the world press notes that in its 3 years in office, the current U.S. Administration has not concluded any agreement connected with curbing the arms race with the Soviet Union. It has essentially discarded the SALT II treaty signed earlier and is refusing to ratify the 1974 treaty on the Limitation of Underground Nuclear Weapon Tests and the 1976 Treaty on Nuclear Explosions for Peaceful Purposes.

Washington did all it could to delay the start of the talks on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe and strategic arms limitation and reduction. And when, under public pressure, it was forced to start a dialogue in Geneva, it attempted to use it as a cloak for its military preparations, as a result of which, the talks were eventually blocked and wrecked.

Even earlier, the United States unilaterally suspended talks on a total nuclear weapons test ban, the Indian Ocean, antisatellite systems, and other talks. Thus, the arms limitation process -- gotten under way as a result of years of joint efforts by the states -- guaranteeing the achievement of perceptible positive results, was disrupted.

All this provides the international public with sufficient grounds for doubt as to the U.S. desire to reach new accords on arms limitation and reduction, and even as to their readiness to honestly observe what has already been achieved.

Take, for example, the aforementioned SALT II treaty, which the United States signed but never ratified. Having stated that it would refrain from actions which would undermine this treaty, the United States unilaterally started to deploy long-range ground-launched and submarined-launched cruise missiles on a mass scale, thereby violating the commitment to hold talks with the Soviet Union on limiting such weapons.

The deployment of U.S. Pershing II and cruise missiles in West Europe patently contradicts the SALT II treaty, which contains a commitment not to upset the established balance of strategic forces. It is perfectly clear that by virtue of their siting, these are strategic weapons in relation to the Soviet Union, a direct and very important addition to the U.S. offensive arsenal.

The Washington administration is carrying out actions which contradict the main commitments of the Treaty on the Limitation of ABM Systems. The implementation of the plans announced by Reagan in this sphere would not only nullify [perecherknut] the existing ABM treaty, but would also undermine the possibility of achieving effective accords in the sphere of strategic arms limitation in the future.

All these actions are by no means in tune with fundamental Soviet-American accords, which precisely state that no side will strive for military superiority and that they will be governed by the principles of equality and mutual security in relations with each other.

As for the Soviet Union, it has always favored seeking mutually acceptable practical solutions to specific questions for the benefit of both countries and for the sake of peace. And if Washington really intends to abandon its obstructionist approach toward curbing the arms race, there are many opportunities for the U.S. Government to prove its love of peace by deeds.

First, the United States could ratify the treaties with the Soviet Union signed almost 10 years ago on limiting underground nuclear weapons tests and on nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes and complete the elaboration of an agreement on a total nuclear weapons test ban.

Second, the United States could make a considerable contribution to strengthening peace by subscribing to an agreement on renouncing the militarization of space. As is known, the USSR has long been proposing this.

Third, Washington's peace-loving assurances would inspire much more confidence if the U.S. Government adopted a proposal on a mutual freeze on U.S and Soviet nuclear weapons. This would considerably improve the general political atmosphere and facilitate an accord on reducing nuclear arsenals.

Fourth, an important task of the present day is to rid mankind of the possibility of chemical weapons being used. Talks on this have long been in progress, but now it seems the preconditions for the resolution of the question are starting to mature. We are talking of a total ban on the use, development, and manufacture of chemical weapons and the destruction of all their stocks. The Soviet Union favors the effective monitoring of the fulfillment of such an agreement and advocates that monitoring embrace the whole process of destruction of chemical weapons -- from beginning to end.

According to the Soviet leadership, it is not ruled out that the achievement of an agreement on the aforementioned questions would be the start of a real breakthrough in Soviet-American relations, and indeed in the whole international situation. The Soviet Union would like to see such a breakthrough. It is up to Washington.

ILICHEV HEADING NEW POLITICAL TALKS WITH PRC

LD121622 Moscow World Service in English 1531 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Another tour [as heard] of political consultations between the Soviet Union and China has begun in Moscow. The Chinese delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, has arrived for participation in it. Deputy Foreign Minister Leonid Ilichev acts as special representative of the Soviet Government.

CPSU POLICY TO PROMOTE TIES WITH PRC UNDERSCORED

OW130111 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Vasin commentary]

[Excerpts] Listeners: Cooperation with socialist countries occupies a special place in the CPSU's foreign policy. The February CPSU Central Committee Plenum reaffirmed the policy of developing relations with fraternal countries in political, economic, cultural, and other fields. In this connection, we are broadcasting a series of talks by our station observer Vasin, "The Main Direction of CPSU Foreign Policy." Today, in the second talk, he discusses the CPSU's policy to expand economic cooperation with socialist countries:

Our party's policy to develop economic relations with fraternal countries under current circumstances was established by resolutions of the 26th CPSU Congress in 1981 and subsequent plenums of the CPSU Central Committee. Our party's work is to solve the question of laying a sound material foundation for socialist and communist societies and the groundwork for satisfying material and spiritual needs of the people of socialist countries. In doing this, our party upholds the view that economic cooperation should be based on equality and mutual benefit between the countries concerned.

The Soviet Union stands for developing its economic ties with China. In this connection, General Secretary Chernenko of the CPSU Central Committee pointed out in his 2 March speech that contacts between the two countries in economic and other fields are gradually being reestablished. He added that this is not liked by those who want to benefit from aggravated relations between the USSR and China, but it benefits both our countries and improves the overall world situation.

It is noteworthy that during the first 10 years after the founding of the People's Republic of China, remarkable results were achieved in Soviet-Chinese economic cooperation. With Soviet assistance, China built 250 industrial enterprises and other projects which the Chinese leadership said constituted the backbone of China's industry.

Recently there has been a proposal for Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Minister, to visit China, during which ways to further develop Soviet-Chinese economic ties might be discussed. As can be seen, the policy of the CPSU and the USSR to promote mutually beneficial and equitable cooperation with socialist countries remains unchanged.

USSR BODIES MOURN DEATH OF DPRK VICE PRESIDENT

LD121731 Moscow TASS in English 1632 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS -- The CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet expressed profound condolences upon the demise of Kim Il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, vice president of the Korean People's Democratic Republic.

The message to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Central People's Committee of the Korean People's Democratic Republic says that Kim Il was a prominent party, state and military leader of Korea who dedicated his life to the motherland's liberation from Japanese colonial oppression, to the construction of new socialist society in the KPDR and who made a great contribution to the consolidation of fraternal friendship between the Korean and Soviet peoples.

The CPSU Central Committee and the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet conveyed sincere condolences to the family and relatives of the deceased.

SOVIET-DPRK AMITY GROUP LEAVES FOR PYONGYANG

SK130051 Moscow in Korean to Korea 1330 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] The delegation of the Soviet-Korea Friendship Society led by Comrade Tarasov, chairman of the Central Committee of the Soviet-Korea Friendship Society and minister of light industry of the Soviet Union, has left Moscow for Pyongyang.

Members of the delegation will discuss (?issues) of cooperation between the two countries' friendship societies with their Korean colleagues and tour scenic Korean spots.

Seeing the delegation off at the airport were Comrade Kwon Hui-kyong, DPRK ambassador extrarodinary and plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union, and staff members of the embassy.

DPRK YOUTH GROUP MEETS KOMSOMOL LEADERS

SK130107 Moscow in Korean to Korea 1330 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] The delegation of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK] led by Comrade Kim Chang-yong, vice chairman of the LSWYK of Korea, is staying in the Soviet Union.

Yesterday, members of the delegation met with the leaders of the Central Committee of All-Union Komsomol of the Soviet Union. Issues on mutual cooperation between the youth organizations of the two countries were discussed at the meeting.

The Korean guests were notified on the process of the preparations for the World Youths and Students Festival which will be held in Moscow in 1985. Today, members of the delegation began touring Minsk, the capital city of the Byelorussian SSR. They will familiarize themselves with the activities of the Komsomol organizations of the republic and tour industrial enterprises in the city.

NASA 'DEMANDS' JAPAN JOIN IN 'STAR WARS' PLANS

LD122321 Moscow TASS in English 2204 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS -- TASS commentator Aleksey Popov writes:

Washington demands from Tokyo large-scale participation in its plans of militarisation of outer space whose implementation Washington views as one of the main ways of achieving world supremacy. Director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States James Beggs arrived in Japan the other day. The Japanese press writes that the aim of his visit is to get Japan's consent to participate in the creation of a permanently manned orbital complex whose purpose is mainly to implement military tasks.

At a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone the emissary conveyed to him the "personal request" of President Reagan to decide this matter positively. The NASA chief said that Washington insists on Japan's bearing from 15 to 20 percent of the expenditures for the construction of a space base of the USA whose cost is estimated at eight billion dollars. In other words, the USA demands that Tokyo should join in the implementation of the U.S. programme of preparation for "star wars".

In his turn the head of the Japanese Government showed his "personal interest" in the implementation of that space programme of the Reagan administration but so far refused to give an official consent to Japan's participation in the programme under the pretext that the Japanese side has not yet studied the financial aspects of the problem. Nakasone's evasive answer is apparently prompted by the striving to lull the Japanese public which declares resolutely against Japan's participation in the arms race in outer space that is unleashed by Washington. The assurances of Nakasone and some other members of the government that Japan will be participating in the NASA project only if the space station is used exclusively in peaceful purposes sound dubiously, to say the least.

They contradict the statements made earlier by Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and other leaders of the government and the ruling party, the statements which show that the United States in any case will get technology and other assistance necessary for the setting up of the space base. Moreover, the Japanese press reports that development of components for the orbital complex has already been started in governmental departments and offices of Japanese corporations.

Japan's participation in Washington's space ventures is sharply criticized by the opposition parties. But the Japanese ruling circles disregard their own commitments to conduct space research in exclusively peaceful purposes and are apparently prepared to help Washington at its first bid in the implementation of militaristic plans in outer space.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON USTINOV VISIT TO INDIA

'Warm, Friendly Atmosphere'

PM121441 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Mar 84 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading: "For the Good of the Peoples of the USSR and India"]

[Text] Delhi, 9 Mar -- Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of defense, who is here on an official visit, has been received by President Zail Singh of India. He conveyed to the president greetings and best weishes from K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; N.A. Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; and A.A. Gromyko, USSR foreign minister.

Zail Singh expressed gratitude and asked to convey most cordial wishes to the Soviet leadership. The president said that people in India are pleased to receive the high military delegation from the Soviet Union. We value friendship with the USSR highly. This is particularly important in the present complex international situation. The results of the recent plenum of your party's Central Committee, at which K.U. Chernenko was unanimously elected general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, are well known in India, the president pointed out. The plenum demonstrated the Soviet country's monolithic nature and the continuity of the Soviet leadership's policy. It reassures us that this policy aimed, above all, at defending peace will be continued. The Soviet Union is the chief guarantor of peace today, and this ensures the protection of all mankind against thermonuclear war.

As for the state of Indian-Soviet relations, they are at a high level, Zail Singh pointed out. They are relations of friendship, fraternity, and full mutual understanding. We in India will always be grateful to the Soviet Union for its disinterested assistance and support.

D.F. Ustinov thanked Zail Singh for the warm words addressed to the Soviet Union and its leadership. Soviet-Indian relations are built on the basis of full equality, he said. The Soviet Union does not seek any benefits or advantages for itself. The USSR's foreign policy is a policy of peace, of easing international tension and strengthening security and international cooperation. The immutability of this policy has been confirmed by the February CPSU Central Committee Plenum and the recent USSR Supreme Soviet elections. The USSR defense minister pointed out that his visit to military subunits of the Indian Armed Forces and to a number of defense installations left him with a good impression. Soviet-Indian cooperation, including in the defense sphere, accords with the interests of peace and international security not only in Asia, but throughout the world.

On the same day, D.F. Ustinov met with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

D.F. Ustinov also had a meeting with Indian Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. During the talks, which were held in a warm, friendly atmosphere, there was an exchange of opinions on urgent questions of the international situation and Soviet-Indian relations. It was emphasized that the relations which have taken shape between the USSR and India are having a positive impact on the development of the international situation.

D.F. Ustinov continued his meetings and talks with Indian Defense Minister R. Venkataraman.

There was an all-round exchange of opinions on questions of Soviet-Indian cooperation in the defense sphere of mutual interest. Here it was emphasized that the Soviet-Indian treaty on peace, friendship, and cooperation is the reliable and sound basis of the friendly ties between the two states. The Indian defense minister was handed an invitation to visit the Soviet Union at a time convenient for him. The invitation was accepted with satisfaction.

A reception was held at the USSR Embassy and was attended by Indian Defense Minister R. Venkataraman, top military chiefs of the republic's Armed Forces, and prominent politicians and public figures of the country.

People's Reaction to Visit

LD130001 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Mar 84

[From the Vremya newscast]

[Text] The results of the visit to India by Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, USSR defense minister, are being widely commented upon by the papers of all states of the country. Our special correspondent Aleksandr Tikhomirov reports:

[Begin Tikhomirov video recording] How many times in the past few days have we had occasion to see how the Indians' traditional benevolence suddenly turns into immense interest and friendliness when our country is mentioned. The close relations that have existed between our two states for several decades are, of course, not just economic and political. These relations have struck roots in the consciousness of millions of people. [shots of Indians waving; Ustinov, at unidentified works, says: Splendid, one can see that things are going well]

During the visit by Marshal Ustinov to the Indian republic, which ended yesterday, thousands of persons passed before the lenses of our cameras, in Delhi, in Madras and in the town of (Nash).

The papers wrote about this, but you'll agree that what people see with their own eyes can sometimes add a great deal to even the most detailed paper accounts. This is a meeting at the [name indistinct] building enterprise at (Haw). These clips were already shown briefly in one of our reports. [shots of Ustinov telling a crowd outside enterprise: I wish you every success]

Among the other interviews shot by our film crew in Delhi on the day of the completion of the visit there is this one with activists of the committee of Indian women, far removed, it would seem, from politics. They are housewives. Their words are directed to the Soviet people. [shots of woman who says in English: Very hearty welcome]

Please accept the most cordial invitation to visit our country. We will be glad to meet you because we are always glad of people who bring us peace. [end recording]

Military Mark Ustinov's Return

PM121449 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Mar 84 Second Edition p 1

[TASS report under the general heading: "Return Home"]

[Text] Marshal of the Soviet Union D.F. Ustinov was greeted at Moscow airport by G.V. Romanov, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; B.P. Bugayev, minister of civil aviation; Marshal of the Soviet Union N.V. Ogarkov, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister; Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, USSR first deputy defense minister; Marshal of the Soviet Union S.L. Sokolov, USSR first deputy defense minister; Army General A.A. Yepishev, chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Army General G.K. Tsinev, first deputy chairman of the USSR KGB; Chief Marshal of Artillery V.F. Tolubko, Chief Marshal of Aviation P.S. Kutakhov, Marshal of the Soviet Union S.K. Kurkotkin, Marshal of Engineering Troops N.F. Shestopalov, Army General A.T. Altunin, and Army General I.N. Shkadov, USSR deputy defense ministers; as well as Army General P.G. Lushev, commander of the Moscow Military District, and other generals, admirals, and officers of the Soviet Armed Forces.

(A.N. Madkhavan), Indian charge d'affaires in the USSR, was among the greeting party.

DRA EX-REBEL LEADERS SCORE WEST'S 'DECEPTION'

PM121225 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[Unnamed own correspondent's dispatch: "They Gave Themselves Up"]

[Text] Kabul, 8 Mar -- Televison viewers in the Afghan capital recently saw on their screens Gul Muhammad and Muhammad Nasim, former gangleaders of two large counterrevolutionary groups active in Afghanistan's southern provinces. They were taking part in a series of programs, organized by Kabul television, on counterrevolutionaries who have laid down their arms and gone over to the side of the DRA Government.

Gul Muhammad and Muhammad Nasim described how they had undergone special training under U.S. instructors' control in camps situated in neighboring Pakistan's territory. It is CIA agents, they said, who coordinate the activities of counterrevolutionary forces.

The number of those who begin to realize that they have been deceived and are acting against their own people and in the interests of imperialist circles in the West -- primarily in the United States -- is growing day by day.

Former leaders and members of basmachi gangs who have broken with the counterrevolution attest that its present leaders can maintain their control over politically backward elements only by resorting to deception and brute force. Many have not yet given themselves up because they do not know about the DRA's humane laws on people who voluntarily surrender.

The people's Army subunits are delivering crushing blows to those who continue to trample the Afghan land with weapons in hand. In Badakhshan Province, for exmaple, according to the newspaper KABUL NEW TIMES, a 700-strong gang that had arrived from Pakistan was crushed a few days ago. Its leader Mehdi and many gangsters surrendered. Various weapons made in the West were captured. Reports of successful combat operations conducted by the Afghan Army are also coming from other provinces in the country.

SRV FOREIGN MINISTER'S JAKARTA TALKS NOTED

LD121437 Moscow TASS in English 1215 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Jakarta March 12 TASS -- TASS correspondents Yuriy Sagaydak and Valeriy Fedortsov report:

Nguyen Co Thach, Vietnamese minister of foreign affairs, who is here on a three-day official visit, today met with President Suharto of Indonesia and held talks with Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja. During the consultations main attention was devoted to the discussion of matters of bilateral relations. World and regional problems were also touched upon. Commenting on today's talks, Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, Indonesian minister of foreign affairs, has described them as "useful and fruitful". He has stated that the sides explained their positions on problems which the states of Southeast Asia encounter, and came out in favour of continuation of such consultations.

The current visit by Nguyen Co Thach is another link in the chain of efforts by the socialist states of Indochina to set up a fruitful dialogue with ASEAN countries and to work out steps on a mutually acceptable basis to overcome the contradictions which remain in the region of Southeast Asia.

With a view to establishing good-neighbourly relations with the ASEAN states, the ministers of foreign affairs of Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea at the traditional consultative meeting in Vientiane in January this year put forward a number of concrete proposals. The initiatives which got the name of "Vientiane Communique" here have riveted the attention of the official circles and mass media of the ASEAN member-states. The Jakarta newspaper THE INDONESIAN TIMES pointed out, in particular, that the communique constitutes a fresh opportunity for the conduct of talks. Calling on the ASEAN official circles to study the document in earnest, the newspaper pointed out the need to give a constructive and realistic reply.

PRK REBUTS 'ABSURD FABRICATIONS' OF POL POTISTS

PM121202 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 4

[Unnamed own correspondent dispatch: "PRK: Absurd Fabrications"]

[Text] Hanoi -- On 29 February, Kampuchea's SPK agency issued a rebuttal to the false reports emanating from the propaganda mouthpieces of the so-called "Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea" regarding the conduct of "successful military operations" by reactionary Khmer formations on PRK territory.

It is easy to see, the agency points out, why the Pol Pot remnants needed to proclaim their far-fetched victories. They have to convince their foreign protectors of the effectiveness and efficiency of the assistance given by the latter to the Khmer reaction.

However, such a naive psychological game is simply absurd to anyone with a first-hand knowledge of the true state of affairs in Kampuchea.

It is well known, for example, that the Pol Pot supporters were recently bragging about their "combat successes" in Battambang. It is also well known, however, that these "successes" did not actually take place.

Specifically, representatives of the international organization FAO visited Battambang on 15 February and subsequently issued a press statement characterizing the present situation in the province as calm. It is common knowledge that on the precise day that the "Khmer Rouge" were shouting about their "latest military victory" in Siemreap, a large group of tourists from a number of Western countries succeeded in visiting it.

The inhabitants of the areas of People's Kampuchea forming part of the Pol Pot army's "phony figures" are bewildered: where precisely are these "liberated areas" that they mention? On what territory "captured" by the bandits did Sihanouk receive credentials from some "foreign ambassadors?" Apparently this official ceremony took place not on Kampuchean soil, but on the territory of Thailand, which has given such hospitable refuge to the Khmer rabble.

The Kampuchea people and their Army are reliably defending the January revolution's gains, the PSK commentary stresses.

FURTHER ON FRG SPD POLITICIAN VOGEL'S VISIT

Received by Chernenko

PM121848 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Mar 84 First Edition

[TASS report: "K.U. Chernenko's Meeting With H.-J. Vogel"]

[Text] Moscow March 12 -- General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Konstantin Chernenko 12 March received Hans-Jochen Vogel, member of the Presidium of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (FRG), chairman of the SPD faction at the Bundestag, in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR Parliamentary Group.

The meeting was attended by: from the Soviet side -- B.N. Ponomarev, alternate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; A.M. Aleksandrov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, assistant to the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; V.V. Zagladin member of the CPSU Central Committe, first deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee; G.A. Arbatov, member of the CPSU Central Committee; S.F. Akhromeyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chief of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, G.A. Zhukov, marshal of the Soviet Union, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee; and A.N. Yakovlev director of the Institute of World Economics and International Relations at the USSR Academy of Sciences.

From the West German side -- Egon Bahr and Hans-Juergen Wischnewski, members of the SPD Presidium; Karsten Dietrich Voigt, head of the SPD group at the FRG Bundestag's Foreign Policy Committee; Richard Von Weizsecker, adviser to the chairman of the SPD faction at the FRG Bundestag on security issues; and HansJeorg Kastl, FRG ambassador to the USSR.

During the conversation, held in a businesslike, constructive spirit, the sides touched upon several principled issues of the present-day international situation, relations between the USSR and the FRG, and ties between the CPSU and the SPD.

Recalling Hans-Jochen Vogel's meeting with Yuriy Andropov in 1983, Konstantin Chernenko stressed that the line collectively worked out and conducted by the Soviet leadership both in the country and in the world arena will be continued in the future. This is the main message of the decisions of the February CPSU Central Committee Plenum. And this precept was approved by the whole nation during the USSR Supreme Soviet elections held the other day.

Continuity in foreign policy means, above all, Konstantin Chernenko stressed, that we must do our utmost to prevent nuclear catstrophe. This means striving for a real turn for the better in the dangerous development world events. This means advancing along the road of equitable cooperation between states on the principles of peaceful coexistence. In this spirit, we are prepared to act jointly with all political and public forces, with all the governments which pursue the same goals.

Konstantin Chernenko dwelt on the problem of ending the nuclear arms race and, in this connection, on the state of relations between the USSR and the United States. He noted that, regrettably, no signs are in sight of the U.S. Government's striving to come to agreement on the limitation and reduction of nuclear armaments on the basis of the principle of equality and equal security.

We respond, naturally, to the attempts by the United States and the NATO bloc to create an additional strategic threat to us through stationing in Western Europe American first-strike nuclear weapons by adopting necessary defense countermeasures rather than by surrending our positions.

The Soviet Union is still ready to resolve the problem of both strategic and "European" nuclear armaments on a constructive, mutually acceptable basis, The talks can be resumed at any moment -- let only the United States remove the obstacles it created by deploying its new missiles in Europe. Then there will be no need for our response measures.

We stress the need for a return to the earlier situation not for considerations of prestige. We simply do not want the war menace in Europe and the world at large to continue to grow. In other words, we proceed from the interests of strengthening peace.

Konstantin Chernenko positively assessed the stance the SPD congress adopted in November 1983 on the question of the American missile deployment in the FRG, the striving to reduce the risk of the FRG's involvement in a nuclear conflict, and expressed belief that the peace-loving public forces in the West have a chance to make a substantial contribution to the efforts to eliminate the threat of nuclear war. The general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee assured that the Soviet Union will continue to firmly follow the course towards curbing the arms race, towards a return to detente, towards peaceful cooperation with all states, and recalled in this connection a number of concrete proposals of the USSR, including those recently advanced.

Hans-Jochen Vogel set forth the SPD's positions on the issues of security and arms control. He pointed out that the SPD favors consolidation of detente and peaceful cooperation in Europe, is opposed to the nuclear arms race, and stands for partnership in the field of security between East and West. He expressed the view that the new Soviet peace initiatives, contained, in particular, in Konstantin Chernenko's election speech, deserve most serious consideration.

Both sides came out in favor of a further development of mutually beneficial cooperation between the USSR and the FRG in various areas. Konstantin Chernenko stressed that possibilities for this are considerable if they are not undermined, but cherished. A considerable role is played here by the FRG's position on the question of nuclear armaments on its territory: The USSR and the FRG could fruitfully cooperate on both economic matters and political questions, but we cannot fail to take into consideration that the FRG's transformation into a forward-based nuclear bridgehead of the United States is a real threat to the security of the USSR and its allies, and we will draw proper conclusions from that. Konstantin Chernenko and Hans-Jochen Vogel stressed that they favor continuation of contacts between the CPSU and the SPD -- above all in the struggle for lessening the war menace, for strengthening peace.

Discusses Chernenko Meeting

LD121413 Hamburg DPA in German 1336 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Moscow, 12 Mar (DPA) -- Bonn opposition leader Hans-Jochen Vogel (SPD), at the start of his 2-day political talks in Moscow, has been the first Western politician to be received for a talk by the new party leader Konstantin Chernenko since the funeral of former Soviet head of state and party leader Yuriy Andropov.

The meeting was preceded by an exchange of views between the two delegations lasting several hours in the building of the CPSU Central Committee, at which Chernenko was present for about 1 hour. Subsequently, he talked with Vogel in private for just 20 minutes.

The chairmen of the Bonn SPD group told German journalists afterward that the talks so far had been "open, useful, and constructive." Vogel said that because the SPD is able to build on the basis of the Ostpolitik and the treaty policy launched by the SPD in the 1970's, it has given the talks additional positive strength. However, it is still too early to recognize possible shifts in the Soviet stance for new beginnings in the disarmament question. The SPD politician said that he considers Chernenko to be a "man who is self-contained and in whom one can realistically see a man of strong will."

Concerning the contents of the current talks, Vogel said the Soviet side had represented the present situation as a serious strain on international relations, the gravity of which should deceive no one. However, this process toward deterioration is not irreversible. Moscow seeks nothing more ardently than such a reversal.

It is thought that Vogel will review his 2 days of talks in the Soviet capital at an international press conference tomorrow.

While welcoming the Bonn delegation, of which SPD Presidium members Hans-Juergen Wischnewski and Egon Bahr are members, Chernenko underlined Moscow's willingness to improve and expand relations with the Federal Republic.

"We want to develop and deepen the good we have gained so far," he said. According to Vogel, the Soviet Union attaches great importance to the intention that in the dangerous world situation, economic and other relations should not suffer.

The opposition leader underlined that now there should be "no periods of speechlessness." Rather, the exchange of information would have to be continued, especially by those who had created the basis for Bonn's Ostpolitik.

The SPD's proposal to use money not spent on arms to help the Third World had been heard with interest. This idea is also contained in the Prague Declaration of the Warsaw Pact states of 1983 on freezing and reducing arms expenditure, as affirmed last week.

Vogel said he had also raised the problem of the great drop in the number of ethnic German emigres from the USSR. The Middle East conflict and the situation in Central America would be discussed in spearate talks by members of the delegations.

Visits Moscow City Soviet

LD121923 Moscow TASS in English 1801 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 12, TASS -- The delegation of the SPD group in the FRG Bundestag headed by the chairman of the group Hans-Jochen Vogel visited the Executive Committee of the Moscow City Soviet. The FRG Ambassador in the USSR Hansjoerg Kastl was together with the guests.

The chairman of the Executive Committee of the Moscow Soviet Vladimir Promyslov acquainted the guests with the history of the city, the prospects of its economic development and the business ties existing between Moscow and Bonn.

"A visit to the Soviet Union is not a visit without a call at the Moscow Soviet," Hans-Jochen Vogel stated. "Moscow is a unique city in the world which changes and becomes more attractive virtually before one's eyes. It is not the first time that I visit your capital and each time I see something that is new to me."

The head of the delegation stressed that in the world of today, when the arms race has reached the apogee, friendship between the cities of various states is a big support for the preservation and strengthening of peace. He spoke highly of the ties between Moscow and Bonn and declared for the further development of cooperation between the two cities.

WEST EUROPEAN DEFENSE PLANS CALLED 'DANGEROUS'

PM121150 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent N. Paklin dispatch in the column "On a Topical Theme": "Dangerous Venture"]

[Text] Rome -- This piece of news was a closely kept secret until the very last day. But, as the saying goes, you cannot hide the obvious. In the end G. Spadolini, Italian Minister of Defense, was forced to admit that, yes, a meeting of Western European Union [WEU] defense ministers will be held in the eternal city.

The WEU was set up shortly after the French National Assembly buried the project for a so-called "European defense community" on 30 August 1954.

Now the leaders of the WEU states have decided that the time has come to return to the question of setting up a "united West European army." The Rome meeting of the defense ministers of "the seven" will be the first in the union's history. As noted here, Italy was behind it. The newspapers are writing that the proposal for holding the meeting was put forward by Prime Minister B. Craxi during his recent talks with FRG Chancellor H. Kohl. The proposal was welcomed not only on the banks of the Rhine, but also in the capitals of the other WEU states.

Italian political observers are drawing attention to the fact that the plan to recreate a "European defense community" has in one way or another in recent months repeatedly been the subject of speeches by the leaders of France and the FRG who, as IZVESTIYA's Paris and Bonn correspondents have already reported, are putting together their own bilateral military alliance under the cover of this "community."

In short, Italy's proposal fell on fertile soil. However, realizing what an unfavorable public reaction this intention would provoke, official WEU representatives are now trying to present the Rome conference as just a "commemorative event" devoted to the 30th anniversary of its creation. These assertions are meant to camouflage the genuine objectives of those behind the meeting of the defense ministers of the seven West European countries. The references to the "jubilee" are clearly at odds with the statement by G. Spadolini, who stressed that the Rome meeting is meant "not only to sum up the past, but also to examine prospects for the future."

Commenting on the plans to recreate the "European defense community," Italian newspapers are stressing that it is seen as the starting point in the cause of "uniting West Europe." After the evident collapse of economic and political association, the supporters of the notorious "United States of Europe" have seen military integration as a cure-all. Moreover, the implication is that this integration will be implemented within the framework of the same aggressive North Atlantic bloc. This is a dangerous venture.

ARTICLE CRITICIZES PARIS-BONN MILITARY TIES

PM121117 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 4

[Own correspondent A. Grigoryants dispatch in the column "On a Topical Theme" and the general heading "Forging an Axis?"]

[Text] Bonn -- Observers note that it is a long time since there was as much talk about "European defense" on the banks of the Rhine and the Seine as at present. It is being discussed in terms of "an alliance within the alliance," French President F. Mitterrand declared during his visit to the FRG.

What the guest and his hosts had in mind was revealed by the results of the February meeting between the leaders of the FRG and France in the West German city of Edenkoben. The participants in the talks discussed in detail questions of a comprehensive rapprochement between the two countries, or -- as the press emphasized -- an alliance between them.

The dominant theme in West German policy is, of course, the alliance with Washington. But people on the Rhine also see the advantages of an "entente cordiale" with their western neighbor. And it is not only a matter of the FRG and France being major trading partners. Bonn is alarmed at the crisis within the EEC, the growing contradictions among its members, and the lack of progress regarding the political integration of Europe. "An alliance within the alliance" -- that is, the FRG and France drawing closer together -- could, it is hoped here, accelerate the community's integration, with Bonn and Paris acting as a kind of "directing force." This will be "the 2-speed Europe" which people on the Rhine have been talking about for years.

However, it is from military political cooperation with France that Bonn is hoping to derive the main advantage. French proposals to boost the Western European Union, which was formed in 1955, as NATO's main support on the continent are meeting with a lively response here. The FRG also regards this organization with favor because over the past 3 decades it has lifted one by one the restrictions on the production in West Germany of offensive-type weapons.

Certain French circles are trying to tempt West Germany with a promise to share their nuclear potential within the framework of "European defense." It is not that they want to hand over French nuclear "Plutons" to the Bundeswehr generals immediately, but as a start they would allow the FRG to take part in consultations on questions of nuclear strategy, and subsequently, in accordance with the "dual key" system, they would allow the FRG, together with France and Britain, to have these weapons at its disposal.

At the same time, it has been noted here that one aspect of the Bonn-Paris alliance is directed against U.S. dominance in the Atlantic bloc. "The time has again come to stress European and West German interests in the alliance," GENERAL-ANZEIGER writes, "and the entente with France serves a fundamental precondition for this."

As we can see, the bilateral alliance which is being formed is not a straightforward phenomenon, but all in all, one thing is clear: "The bloc within the bloc" portends nothing good for Europe. It will impart a fresh impetus to military preparations, increase mistrust and tension on the continent, and play into the hands of aggressive U.S. circles preparing Europe to be a nuclear testing ground. What is being hatched on the Rhine and the Seine is bad business.

ARTICLE HITS FRG DEFENSE MINISTER'S 'MILITARISM'

PM121142 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Mar 84 Second Edition p 3

[Major V. Nikanorov "Military Political Commentary": "In a Spirit of Militarism"]

[Text] FRG Defense Minister M. Woerner gave a speech to a conference of Bundeswehr higher command personnel in the Luebeck suburb of Travemuende which was not particularly notable for its originality. This time, too, the head of the West German military department did not refrain from slanderous attacks on the Soviet Union and the other Warsaw Pact countries. To the accompaniment of big talk about a "threat from the East," he called for the utmost stepping up of the Bundeswehr's combat might and advocated the buildup of militarist preparations within the NATO framework and the acceleration of the nuclear arms race.

Woerner's speech at the so-called Munich "international conference" of the West German society for military knowledge -- "Wehrkunde" -- was true to the same spirit. Addressing the high-ranking NATO members and "experts" in creating new types of weapons at the gathering, he approved the deployment of U.S. first-strike nuclear missiles on the territory of the FRG, Britian, and Italy. What is more, the minister alleged that the Pershing and cruise missiles "serve to ensure peace."

The West German defense minister's utterances are very typical. The FRG not only supports the U.S. Administration's militarist policy, but also takes an active part in large-scale military preparations. Under an agreement between West Germany and the United States, the Bundeswehr's ground forces are responsible for realizing the aggressive concept, elaborated by the Pentagon for NATO's allied armed forces, which envisages a preemptive "disarming" strike against the Warsaw Pact states.

The construction of new ammunition depots, airfield runways, military camps, and roads is now going on everywhere on FRG territory. Other practical steps are also being taken to make it possible in "crisis situations" for U.S. forces in West Europe to be reinforced within 10 days with 6 additional divisions and 30 air squadrons from across the Atlantic. It seems that Woerner, to justify these militarist preparations, has been trying to convince the public that supposedly "peace in Europe is only possible with U.S. assistance."

An attempt is also being made in the FRG to justify the continuous reinforcement and improvement of the West German arsenals in terms of a "concern for peace." In 1984, DM12.6 billion are being allocated in the FRG military budget for acquiring new combat hardware. New tanks, missiles, aircraft, and other combat hardware, intended to increase considerably the Bundeswehr's offensive potential will be purchased with this money. According to Lieutenant General Glanz, inspector (commander) of the Bundeswehr Ground Forces, 500 new or modernized tanks, armored personnel carriers, and self-propelled weapons are to join the armories this year. The Leopard-2 tank must be accorded first place here. The Bundeswehr will obtain a total of 1,800 of these modern combat vehicles before 1986. The Bundesliftwaffe will also be reinforced with new aircraft, including the very up-to-date Tornado multipurpose aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons. The Bundesmarine will also receive new equipment.

However, this is still not all. England's FINANCIAL TIMES recently reported that France has advanced a proposal to review the restrictions on the manufacture by West Germany of conventional types of weapons. Lifting these, the paper noted, would enable the FRG to start the production of long-range guided missiles as well as bombers, to which West Germany is still not entitled. Such a measure is seen as a step toward closer European cooperation in the sphere of arms development and construction.

The militarist spirit with which the West German defense minister's recent speeches have been imbued is already being embodied in reality in the continuing buildup of the FRG's military potential. While bringing fabulous profits to the military-industrial corporations, it does not, of course, help consolidate security in Europe.

ACTIVITIES OF ZAMYATIN, CHERVOV IN ITALY REPORTED

Meet Legislative Leaders

LD122236 Moscow TASS in English 2225 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Rome March 12 TASS -- Member of the Commission for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Zamyatin and Chief of the Board of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces Colonel-General Nikolay Chervov met today with President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament Leonilde Jotti.

A communique circulated today by a spokesman of the president of the Chamber of Deputies says that the main aspects of the present-day international situation were discussed during the conversation that passed in a cordial atmosphere. The communique points out that the Soviet representatives had prolonged meetings with numerous participants of the Chamber of Deputies' Commission for Foreign Affairs headed by Giorgio la Malfa.

USSR Ambassador in Italy Nikolay Lunkov was present during the conversation with Leonilde Jotti.

Meet With Berlinguer

LD130846 Moscow TASS in English 0812 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Rome March 13 TASS -- Enrico Berlinguer, general secretary of the Italian Communist Party, has received Leonid Zamyatin, head of a department of the CPSU Central Committee, and Nikolay Chervov, chief of a department of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the USSR, now staying here. They exchanged opinions on certain questions of disarmament.

Paolo Bufalini, member of the leadership of the Italian Communist Party, Antonio Rubbi, head of the foreign sector of the International Department of the ICP Central Committee, and Nikolay Lunkov, the ambassador of the USSR in Italy, took part in the talk.

KUZNETSOV RECEIVES OUTGOING PORTUGUESE ENVOY

LD112041 Moscow TASS in English 1503 GMT 11 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 11 TASS -- Vasiliy Kuznetsov, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first vice president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, received in the Kremlin today the ambassador of Portugal in the Soviet Union Antonio Augusto de Medeiros Patricio in connection with his forthcoming departure from the USSR.

They had a conversation and dwelt on questions of the further development of Soviet-Portuguese relations and also on some problems of the present international situation.

ALIYEV CONCLUDES 'BRIEF WORKING VISIT' TO SYRIA

Dinner Speeches Noted

PM121540 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In a Friendly Atmosphere"]

[Text] Damascus March 11 -- Talks have been held here between Geydar Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, in Syria on a brief working visit, and 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister of the Syrian Arab Republic.

At the beginning of the talks Geydar Aliyev conveyed to the Syrian leadership warm greetings from General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Konstantin Chernenko, and regards and good wishes from member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikolay Tikhonov and member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Foreign Affairs Minister of the USSR Andrey Gromyko.

The sides exchanged views on a broad range of issues on the international situation, the situation in the Middle East and Lebanon and also on the state and development of bilateral relations between the Soviet Union and Syria.

The talks were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

The following took part in the talk: on the Soviet side -- K.N. Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department; V.P. Polyakov, chief of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Middle Eastern Countries Department; and V.I. Yukhin, USSR ambassador to Syria; and on the Syrian side -- F. Ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs; and other officials.

' Abd al-Halim Khaddam held a dinner in honor of Geydar Aliyev.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Geydar Aliyev exchanged speeches.

On behalf of the leadership of the Arab Socialist Rennaissance Party and the country's government, and on my own behalf, I'm glad to greet you and wish you a good stay among the friends who experience profound friendly feelings towards you and towards your country, 'Abd Halim Khaddam said. Your visit to our country is taking place in complicated conditions in the Middle East region where struggle is mounting between us and the forces of American hegemony, the ally of Israeli aggressors. We are convinced that our people, faithful to their cause, will attain victory in this struggle because we realize that the peoples who are fully determined to implement their national goals are capable of achieving victory and defeating the enemy despite the might of its fleets and aircraft carriers, and other means of destruction.

The abrogation of the agreement imposed by the United States and Israel on Lebanon confirms the steadfastness and self-sacrifice in the Lebanese people's pursuance of national policy that expresses their striving and aspirations. This is the only road to peace that must be taken by the fighters for freedom and dignity.

The cancellation of the agreement signifies not only that an end has been put to the legal justification for the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, but also that this fraternal country has embarked on the path of liberation and restoration of its unity and national sovereignty. The abrogation of the agreement is also a great defeat for the policy of the United States and Israel in the region.

We have succeeded in showing to the entire world that Syria, in its national policy worked out by the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party and implemented by its general secretary, President Hafiz al-Asad, is capable not only of resisting the aggression, but also of thwarting the designs of the aggressors and crushing them.

Despite the civil war in Lebanon and the Israeli occupation, we have succeeded in inflicting a great defeat to the aggressive and adventurous policy of the United States and Israel. One should undoubtedly mention at this point the major role that was and is being played by the national resistance in Lebanon, which contributed to reaching this major result.

It must be also noted that the first and most important lesson that the Arabs must learn from the success of Lebanon which abrogated the agreement is the possibility of the collapse of the Camp David course and the treaty concluded between Egypt and the Israeli enemy.

That is why we are calling upon our brothers in Egypt to follow the example of Lebanon, which has been able, despite everything, to overcome the difficulties which it has encountered.

Here I would like to mention the directives given by General Secretary of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party and President of the Republic Hafiz al-Asad to the Syrian delegation to the conference on national reconciliation in Lebanon. They contain demands for maximum effort for achieving of national accord, by the Lebanese, restoring their unity and sovereignty over the entire territory so that the forthcoming round of the conference will turn it into a conference of national peace in Lebanon.

[Moscow TASS in English at 1131 GMT on 11 March carries a similar report which includes the following additional paragraphs in the previous passage:

[That is why we are calling upon our brothers in Egypt, and Egypt is our great brother who does not encounter the difficulties facing such a little country as Lebanon, to follow the example of his junior brother who succeeded, despite his wounds, difficulties and tragedies, in being strong in the national settlement and great in his abilities to continue and overcome these difficulties, hardships and disasters.

[All Arab patriots are directing to Cairo their minds, hearts and sympathies and are asking whether Cairo will be just as strong in national settlement as Beirut. We reiterate to our brothers in Egypt that the Arab nation shares with them all responsibility for this national settlement, all its consequences, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said.

[Speaking about the abrogation of the May 17, 1983 agreement, we realize more than any other side that this will bring about greater difficulties in connection with this historic decision. At this point, I would like to mention the directives given by General Secretary of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party and President of the Republic Hafiz al-Asad to the Syrian delegation to the conference on national reconciliation in Lebanon. They contain demands for maximum effort for achieving by the Lebanese of national accord, restoring their unity and sovereignty over the entire territory so that the forthcoming round of the conference turn it into a conference of national peace in Lebanon.]

Syria's responsibility for assistance to our brothers in Lebanon is national responsibility determined by the fraternal relations that link the two countries.

The abrogation of the May 17 agreement has placed the Arabs before a new path, closing way before those who entertain illusions with regard to the American options of settlement.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam gave a high assessment of the Palestinian patriotic forces' role in their courageous struggle against the American-Israeli deal.

The TASS version words the previous paragraph as follows:

[In this context, it is necessary to estimate highly the role of the Palestinian patriotic forces who courageously opposed the policy of sliding, fragmentation and departure from the decisions of the Palestine National Council, pursued by some Palestinian leaders to satisfy the Americans and Israelis, he said.]

Speaking about the dangerous period in Middle East history, one cannot fail to assess the great role played by the friendly Soviet Union, which is reflected in its support and assistance to us in all areas. The Soviet Union has proved that it is a state which is friendly and loyal to Syria and all the Arabs. [The TASS verson words this sentence: The Soviet Union proved that it is a friendly and loyal friend to Syria and all the Arabs.] Its assistance and support for us are important and necessary. Thanks to this support Syria succeeded in gaining necessary defence might and strengthening its moral and material potential necessary for our steadfastness and defense of our national line.

What I want to say is that the present state of Soviet-Syrian relations, reflected in the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, in the Soviet Union's backing and assistance, is the result of a long path of joint work and cooperation. These relations represent an example of cooperation, based on the principles of friendship, mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other.

[The TASS version words the previous paragraph: What I want to say is that the present state of Soviet-Syrian relations, reflected in the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, in the Soviet Union's backing and assistance, loyalty to friendship commitments, has not emerged overnight or in one year, but is an outcome of long joint work and cooperation. This enabled us and our Soviet friends to consolidate these relations to such a degree that they have attained the current level. They represent an example of cooperation, based on the principles of friendship, mutual respect and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other.]

In conclusion 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam expressed confidence that the Syrian-Soviet talks would end in complete agreement and would become a new link in the friendly relations between our two countries.

On behalf of the Ba'th Party and the Syrian Government he conveyed wishes for health, happiness, progress, and prosperity to K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, the Soviet leadership, and the friendly Soviet people. [The TASS version here rewords as follows: [I'm convinced that our talks will end in complete accord and become a new link in friendly relations between the two countries.

[In conclusion, allow me to convey greetings to the leadership of the friendly Soviet Union on behalf of the leadership of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party, the Syrian Government and on my own behalf. We wish General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Comrade Konstantin Chernenko, all Soviet leadership health and happiness, and the friendly Soviet people -- progress and prosperity.

[Allow me to welcome Syrian-Arab-Soviet friendship and wish Comrade Aliyev and his delegation great successes, health and happiness, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said in conclusion.]

Speaking at the dinner Geydar Aliyev said:

Allow me to express my heartfelt gratitude to the leadership of the Syrian Arab Republic for the invitation to visit your beautiful country and for the warm, hospitable welcome. Our visit is a continuation of the good tradition of Soviet-Syrian meetings and talks on most topical problems of mutual interest. We are glad to have an opportunity to express once again the sincere sentiments of solidarity and sympathy in the Soviet Union for friendly Syria, its courageous people.

We regard this visit to be a fresh evidence of the dynamic cooperation between the USSR and Syria, between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party. The policy of this cooperation was outlined in the decisions of our party congresses. It proceeds from the common interests of the Soviet and Syrian peoples in the struggle against imperialism and reaction, for peace and social progress. The Soviet-Syrian treaty is the solid basis of the relations of true friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation existing between us.

Our meeting is being held at a time when the situation in the Middle East and the world as a whole remains highly dangerous. [TASS here uses: "Quite serious"]. All responsibility for this is borne by the present United States Administration. Being obsessed with the reactionary utopia of reversing the course of history, it declared a "crusade" against all the progressive and freedom-loving forces on earth. Washington kindles the spirit of confrontation in the international arena, builds up tensions in various parts of the world, launches armed adventures against sovereign states, builds up the arms race to an unprecedented scale in order to ensure military superiority over the socialist countries. The policy of the United States creates a growing threat to peace on earth and brings humankind to the verge of a thermonuclear conflict.

This policy is resolutely opposed by the USSR and all peace forces. The Soviet Union will not permit the United States and its NATO allies to change the military-strategic balance in their favour. At the same time we will unswervingly adhere to the policy of preserving and strengthening peace, of curbing the arms race, of widening and deepening cooperation between states. This is precisely the aim of the wide package of initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union.

The actions of the United States in the Middle East, in particular the invasion of Lebanon, the threats against Syria are an inseparable part of Washington's global hegemonistic policy characterized by its gambling on military force and terrorist methods. This, as General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Konstantin Chernenko pointed out, addressing the electorate in Moscow on March 2, is an example of the practical use of the policy of the most aggressive forces of United States imperialism -- the policy of rabid militarism, of claims to world domination, opposition to progress, violation of the rights and freedom of peoples.

Here, in your region, they wish to create a springboard for imperialist aggression against the freedom and independence of the Arab and other newly-free countries.

That is why they announced the Middle East to be a sphere of "vital interests" of the USA, which is only a method of expressing their claims that it be included into the sphere of American domination.

That is why the United States concluded an agreement on "strategic cooperation" with Israel, whose direct outcome was the impudent and barbarous aggression against an Arab state -- Lebanon.

That is why the sinister United States naval armada appears first here and then there off the Arab shores. Today, too, it is in the Lebanese waters. The shelling from its guns already killed hundreds upon hundreds of peaceful civilians in Lebanon's towns and villages. Nowadays engaged in brigandage on the Arab soil are not only the Israeli aggressors equipped with U.S.-made weapons, but also their American patrons.

There is every indication that the United States would like to destroy the gains of the Arab peoples scored by them in the long struggle for national independence, freedom and social progress.

But there is sound reason to say already today that the machinery of military-political pressure which was set in motion by the American imperialists, malfunctions. An evidence of this is the inglorious end of the fettering agreement, which the United States and Israel were trying to force on Lebanon. This is a major success for the National Patriotic Forces of Lebanon, for the entire Arab world. Much credit for this goes to Syria, its staunch anti-imperialist policy, which has the Soviet Union's invariable support. The imperialists apparently underestimate the striving and determination of the Arab peoples to live independently and decide their destiny themselves. History has already more than once proved that it is impossible to defeat a people, which rose to struggle for independence.

The Syrian Arab Republic is an object of enmity and crude pressure from imperialism precisely because it plays an important role in countering the American-Israeli plan in the Middle East. The fact that Syria does not yield to this pressure is of great significance for the entire Arab liberation movement. The Soviet Union highly evaluates Syria's principled stand.

What does the Soviet Union advocate in the Middle East?

We are for putting an end to imperialist diktat and interference in the internal affairs of the countries of the region, that it be delivered from imperialist military presence, that the Arab peoples could develop freely and independently along the way meeting their wishes.

We are for peace being established here, at long last, so that the countries of the Middle East could center their efforts on creativity and progress. This takes a just settlement of the Middle East conflict.

We are for the Arab people of Palestine fighting under the leadership of PLO, its sole legitimate representative, be given an opportunity to exercise its inalienable national rights [TASS omits the word "inalienable"], including the right to the creation of its own independent state.

We are for developing and widening cooperation between the Soviet Union and Syria, all the Arab states on the basis of equality and mutual respect, so that Soviet-Syrian, Soviet-Arab friendship should strengthen. The Soviet Union has always sided and will continue siding with the just cause of the Arab peoples, their struggle against the Israeli aggression, for freedom and independence, for just peace in the Middle East.

We note with gratification that this Soviet policy meets with understanding with our Syrian friends, with all the Arab patriots. I would like to express the conviction that the exchange of views to be held during our stay in Damascus will contribute to a further strengthening of relations between our countries and parties for the benefit of the Soviet and Syrian peoples.

In conclusion Geydar Aliyev wished the friendly Syrian people successes in the development on the path of independence and progress. He proposed a toast to the strengthening of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Syria, between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party, and wished good health to general secretary of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party, President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Syrian Dinner Guests

LD102201 Moscow TASS in English 2114 GMT 10 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Damascus March 10 TASS -- 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syria's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has given a dinner today in honor of Geydar Aliyev, member of the Politbureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who arrived here on a short working visit. Present at the dinner from the Syrian side were Chairman of the People's Council of the Syrian Arab Republic Mahmud az-Zu'bi and Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Issues 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah.

Meets Al-Asad, Prime Minister

PM131039 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Mar 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "Meetings in Damascus"]

[Text] Damascus March 12 TASS -- President of Syria Hafiz al-Asad yesterday had a meeting with Geydar Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who is now in Syria on a brief working visit.

Geydar Aliyev handed over to the head of the Syrian state a message and the best of wishes from General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Konstantin Chernenko.

An exchange of opinions on questions of the present-day international situation and the situation in the Middle East was held in the course of the talk which passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Both sides emphasized the desire to develop and strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation existing between the Soviet Union and Syria.

Taking part in the meeting, from the Soviet side, were Karen Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, Vladimir Polyakov, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Middle Eastern Countries Department, the USSR Ambassador in the Syrian Arab Republic Vladimir Yukhin, from the Syrian side -- deputy prime minister, Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

As was reported by the SANA news agency, negotiations between Hafiz al-Asad and Geydar Aliyev will be continued tomorrow.

Damascus March 12 TASS -- A meeting between Prime Minister of Syria 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Geydar Aliyev was held here.

Relations of durable friendship linking the Soviet Union and Syria in the political, economic, cultural and other spheres were discussed during the meeting.

The head of the Syrian Government spoke highly of the close and effective cooperation between the two friendly countries which meets the interests of the joint struggle of Syria and the Soviet Union, of all peaceful and freedom-loving forces of the world against U.S. imperialism and Zionism. Soviet-Arab friendship as a whole and Soviet-Syrian friendship in particular is an important factor promoting the widening of the liberation struggle of Arab peoples, 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm said.

Geydar Aliyev stressed that the Soviet Union supports Syria's principled and firm stand in opposing U.S.-Israeli plans in the Middle East. He said that the Soviet Union will continue invariably supporting Syria's anti-imperialist course.

The sides also discussed some questions of the implementations of economic, scientific and technical agreements concluded between the two countries. Mutual satisfaction was expressed over the results of bilateral cooperation.

[Moscow TASS in English at 1924 GMT on 11 March in a similar report here adds: Faruq ash-Shar', state minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic and Vladimir Yukhin, the USSR ambassador in the Syrian Arab Republic, took part in the meeting.]

Further on Al-Asad 12 Mar Talks

LD121839 Moscow TASS in English 1825 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus March 12 TASS -- Talks between President of Syria Hafiz al-Asad and member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Geydar Aliyev now staying in Syria on a working visit were continued in the Syrian capital today.

During the conversation, there was an exchange of opinions on questions of the present-day international situation and the Middle East situation. Other problems of mutual interest were also discussed.

Both sides emphasized the striving to develop and strengthen bilateral relations existing between the Soviet Union and Syria, the relations resting on the Soviet-Syrian treaty.

Geydar Aliyev spoke highly about the important role of the Syrian Arab Republic in opposing U.S.-Israeli plans in the Middle East. He said that the anti-imperialist course of the Syrian Arab Republic is invariably supported by the Soviet Union. Syria's principled stand aimed at frustrating the plots of imperialism and Zionism in the region is of great significance for the entire Arab national liberation movement.

The Soviet Union declares for utmost development and widening of cooperation with the Syrian Arab Republic, with all Arab states under the principles of equality and mutual respect, Geydar Aliyev stressed. The Soviet Union always was and will be supporting the just cause of Arab peoples, their struggle against Israeli aggression, for freedom and independence, for a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Hafiz al-Asad highly assessed the Soviet Union's principled stand in the Middle East settlement. This stand confirms that the Soviet Union is a true friend of Arab peoples, promotes their struggle aimed at frustrating U.S.-Israeli plans of the establishment of domination in the region.

He said that no one in the world can change Syria's anti-imperialist, anti-Zionist, national patriotic progressive course, shake its resolve to oppose the plots of hostile forces.

The meeting passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Taking part in the meeting from the Soviet side were Deputy Chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee Karen Brutents, Chief of the Middle Eastern countries department of the USSR Foreign Ministry Vladimir Polyakov, USSR ambassador in the Syrian Arab Republic Vladimir Yukhin. Taking part in the meeting from the Syrian side was Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Syrian, Lebanese CP Talks

LD130739 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] In Damascus on 12 March Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, who is there on a working visit at the invitation of the leadership of the Syrian Arab Republic, met members of the leadership of the Syrian Communist Party led by Faysal, deputy general secretary of the party Central Committee. The Syrian friends were told about the foreign and home policy of the CPSU and its work towards implementing the decisions of the 26th party congress and the subsequent Central Committee Plenums. The solidarity of Soviet people with the friendly people of Syria was confirmed. Expression was given to the unchanging desire of the CPSU and the Syrian Communist Party towards further developing and strengthening the fraternal links of friendship and cooperation between them.

Comrade Aliyev met leaders of the Lebanese Communist Party led by Hawi, its general secretary. A comradely exchange of views took place on current problems of the Near East situation, including in Lebanon. On behalf of Soviet Communists and all Soviet people, solidarity was expressed for the struggle of the Lebanese people for preserving Lebanon's unity, independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty as an Arab state. The conversation passed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Al-Asad Talks; Az-Zu'bi Dinner

LD131251 Moscow TASS in English 1230 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus March 13 TASS -- This morning member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Geydar Aliyev, who stayed here on a brief working visit, had a meeting with Vice President of Syria Ra'fat al-Asad.

The day before speaker of the People's Council of the Syrian Arab Republic Mahmud az-Zu'bi held a supper in honour of Geydar Aliyev.

Departs Damascus 13 Mar

LD131018 Moscow TASS in English 1011 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus March 13 TASS -- Geydar Aliyev, member of the (?Politburo of the) CPSU Central Committee, first vice chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, ended today his working visit to Syria.

At Damascus International Airport G. Aliyev was seen off by Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister and defence minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, Faruq ash-Shar', foreign minister and other officials.

'To Consolidate' Relations

LD121752 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 12 Mar 84

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program, written by Sergey Krylov]

[Text] Soviet-Syrian talks have ended in Damascus. The Soviet delegation was led by Geydar Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

The Damascus ATH-THAWRAH said the visit of the party and government delegation to Syria will undoubtedly help to consolidate the friendly relations between the two countries and strengthen the steadfastness of Syria in the face of the imperialist-Zionist plans.

The Damascus meetings and talks took place at a complex and important period with regard to the entire region. They are distinguished by the escalation of the struggle against American domination and the Zionist expansion in the direction of the Arab countries. One of the signs of this trend was undoubtedly Lebanon's cancellation of the contract of submission imposed on it about a year ago by Israel and the United States. It can be said without any doubt that the cancellation of this artificially legal justification for the presence of the Israeli forces in Lebanon is a victory not just for the Lebanese people but also for every anti-imperialism liberation movement in the Arab world. The Syrian Arab Republic has played an important role in foiling the American-Israeli plans towards Lebanon. In his speech at a luncheon given in honour of the Soviet delegation, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam said that the Syrian Arab Republic considers it a national duty to help this neighboring Arab country.

The Syrian leaders, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, have praised in this connection the stance of the Soviet Union which constantly and firmly supports Syria and the nationalist forces of Lebanon and the Arab liberation movement.

The head of the Soviet delegation, Geydar Aliyev, has underlined the Soviet stance by saying that the Soviet Union wants to put an end to imperialist interference in the affairs of the region and deliver it from imperialist military presence. And it wants the Arab peoples to be able to develop freely and independently according to their wishes.

LEBANESE RECONCILIATION CONFERENCE IN LAUSANNE

Conference's Prospects Assessed

LD112052 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1745 GMT 11 Mar 84

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Vitaliy Sobolev]

[Text] 12 March has been set as the date for the opening of the Lebanese national reconciliation conference in the Swiss town of Lausanne. Lebanese President Al-Jumayyil has invited the leaders of the country's various parties and political-religious groupings to take part in it. My colleague Igor Surguchev will talk in more detail about the tasks of the forthcoming conference and the prospects for a peaceful political settlement of internal Lebanese problems:

[Surguchev] The Lebanese people and all those who wish a speedy end to the fratricidal civil war in Lebanon and the liberation of that Arab country from foreign occupiers and interventionists are placing great hopes on the Lausanne conference. It is quite clear that the elmination of disagreement between the Lebanese themselves will create good preconditions for an even more active and decisive struggle on their part for the full restoration of the Lebanese Republic's independence and sovereignty. National reconciliation, if it is achieved, will not only put an end to the bloody internecine war, but will also serve the cause of uniting all Lebanon's patriotic forces who reject crude imperialist interference and are striving to achieve the total and unconditional withdrawal of the troops of the Israeli aggressors from Lebanese soil.

Washington and Tel Aviv naturally fear such a development of events, and are therefore trying to work through their agents in Lebanon to wreck the planned internal Lebanese dialogue.

It is not by chance that the situation in Beirut and its environs has again been exacerbated. In spite of the cease-fire announced almost a week ago, armed clashes there have not only not died down, but have become even fiercer and more widespread. It is not ruled out that the escalation of military action could hinder the holding of the Lausanne conference. The enemies of a free, peaceful, and independent Lebanon are also placing particular hopes on this because now a real chance has come into being for achieving agreement between the warring Lebanese groupings, the main contentious issue of the attitude toward the notorious peace agreement between Lebanon and Israel has been removed from the agenda of the internal Lebanese talks. As is known, the Lebanese Government recently annulled this demeaning one-sided agreement. Now first and foremost are questions connected with the need for democratic reforms in Lebanon's sociopolitical life and the creation of a representative coalition government for the country. The republic's present Constitution, which ensures a dominant position for the Christian community in state institutions should, in the view of progressive Lebanese forces, be reviewed. They support the demands of the Muslim majority of Lebanon's population for more just representation in parliament and other bodies of power.

With good will and an honorable approach, the forthcoming conference's participants can very well find acceptable solutions to these purely internal Lebanese problems. However, it is important that they are all guided by the highest interests of the country and its much-suffering people, and that they are able to conduct talks without any outside interference or pressure.

Meeting's Agenda Noted

LD121516 Moscow TASS in English 1446 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Lausanne March 12 TASS -- The second stage of the conference for national reconciliation in Lebanon begins today. President Amin al-Jumayyil of Lebanon, Walid Junblatt, Sulayman Franjiyah and Rashid Karami, leaders of the National Salvation Front, Birri, leader of the Shi'ite movement "Amal", as well as representatives of other Lebanese political and religious groupings have arrived here to attend the conference. Delegations of Syria and Saudi Arabia are present as observers.

Matters concerning the normalisation of the situation in the country, ways to reach cease-fire agreement, determination of common principles for a solution to the intra-Lebanese conflict, and the formation of a national unity government have been put on the agenda of the conference.

Representatives of the progressive forces of Lebanon have worked out a common platform for the forthcoming meeting. The essence of it has been set out in a working document prepared by the National Salvation Front and its allies.

The document points out, in particular, the need to put an end to the bloodshed in the country as soon as possible, to achieve a just settlement of the internal political crisis, and to carry out basic socio-political reforms, and expresses firm determination to uphold sovereignty, independence and unity of Lebanon.

The resumption of the conference has become possible only as a result of the annulment of the fettering agreement with Israel, the agreement which was imposed upon Lebanon by Washington and Tel Aviv. At the same time it is being pointed out in Arab political circles that the second round of the talks takes place in the conditions of the continuing occupation of almost a third of Lebanese territory by Israeli troops as well as in the conditions of the presence of the U.S. interventionist corps based on the ships of the U.S. Sixth Fleet off the Lebanese coast.

Al-Jumayyil Address

LD130804 Moscow TASS in English 0739 GMT 13 Mar 84

[Text] Lausanne March 13 TASS -- The second round of the conference on national reconciliation in Lebanon that began here was addressed by Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil. The past nine years of war, bombings and devastation, he said, have become for the Lebanese people a period of grim trials. Continued instability in the country would have an adverse effect on peace in the Middle East and all over the world.

Commenting on the abrogation of the unequal agreement with Israel that has been imposed upon Lebanon, President al-Jumayyil stressed that that decision reflected the desire of the people and constituted a guarantee of their cohesion, the liberation of Lebanon and the achievement of national accord. He stressed the need to put an end to armed clashes, to form a government of national unity and to discuss draft reforms required by the country.

A commission was set up at a plenary meeting of the conference with the mandate to draft practical measures to achieve a ceasefire between the warring sides. The commission is made up of representatives of the Progressive Socialist Party, the Amal movement, the command of the Lebanese Army and right-wing Christian groupings.

Cease-Fire Commission Created

LD130032 Moscow TASS in English 2317 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Lausanne March 13 TASS -- Participants in the second stage of the conference on national reconciliation in Lebanon, which has started here, held Monday a discussion on the terms of ceasefire by the warring parties. A commission was created at this session which was charged with the task to analyse and work out practical measures aimed at putting this decision into practice, including the institution of a group of observers. The commission includes representatives of the Progressive Socialist Party, the National Salvation Front, the Shi'ite movement "Amal", the Phalangists, as well as a representative of the command of the Lebanese Army. According to reports reaching here, a session of the Quadrilateral ceasefire commission on this question will be held in Beirut.

Israeli Opposition to Session

LD121629 Moscow TASS in English 1557 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] Moscow March 12 TASS -- TASS news analyst Leonid Ponomarev writes:

According to Western news reports quoting Radio Israel, the Tel Aviv government is preparing a "surprise" redeployment of its troops in south Lebanon they occupy, with the clear intention to frustrate the work of the conference on national reconciliation of Lebanon, which opens in the Swiss town of Lausanne today.

It is beyond doubt that the total liberation of the south Lebanese areas from the Israeli invaders would be one of the factors conducive to the conference's success. This is, however, opposed in every manner possible by the leaders of Israel. The tactics of pressure, blackmail and threats, and the use of military force are broadly relied upon by Tel Aviv in its aggressive anti-Arab policy in the Middle East. At present the Israeli authorities are also acting true to form. As is clear from statements by Israeli leadership, Israel has no intention whatsoever to withdraw its troops from South Lebanon, at least not in the foreseeable future.

But in order to conceal its true objectives, to mislead the world public and to sow divisions between the Arabs, the Israeli Government has recently been feigning a wait-and-see position, while in reality it is trying to hamper the efforts by the various Lebanese factions to achieve a national reconciliation. Not without the U.S. support, Tel Aviv strategists are now very busy looking for new forms to preserve Israeli occupation of the south Lebanese areas, and the possibility for exerting direct influence on the life and policy of Lebanon. According to a report by the ASSOCIATED PRESS, (?deputy) prime minister and the Minister of Housing Construction of Israel David Levy said on Israeli radio that Tel Aviv's government is now working to assure for the Israeli Army in Lebanon a "maximum of space for manoeuvre and the element of surprise". This statement serves to indicate that the aims of Israeli authorities vis-a-vis the Arab peoples have remained the same, i.e. those of conquest, while Tel Aviv's policy remains the principal destabilising factor in the region. A common stand by the Lebanese forces and a national reconciliation in Lebanon are regarded by Tel Aviv as a serious obstacle in the way of the U.S.-Israeli policy of annexation in the Middle East.

Increased Israeli Threats

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[Correspondent Leonid Rassadin report from Cairo]

[Text] More and more threats against Syria and Lebanon can be heard in Israel. The closer the date of the convening of the second stage of the conference on national accord in Lebanon -- which is due to open in Switzerland on 13 March -- the more impertinent these threats become. The Israeli prime minister, the head of the Israeli war department and other members of the government have joined in this campaign of war psychosis. The meaning of their statements boils down to the following: now, after Beirut's abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement of 17 May last year, Israel's hands are untied. This means, judging by past experience, that the Israeli brasshats are preparing for fresh aggressive actions in Lebanon. There is graphic confirmation of this already today. The Israeli Air Force has once again been carrying out reconnaissance flights over Beirut and the mountainous areas of Lebanon.

Attention is drawn to the fact that over the last few days the Israeli press has been writing a lot about the possibility of a so-called redistribution of the Israeli troops in southern Lebanon. At the same time, however, it is unfailingly stressed that Israeli occupation of the southern Lebanese regions will continue, as Israeli television stated, for many more months, and most likely for many years. Arab observers believe that the United States and Israel are trying all possible means to torpedo the work of the forthcoming conference on national accord in Lebanon. It is not excluded that, with this aim in view, a major military action is being prepared against the Lebanese patriotic forces and Syria.

ALIYEV ELECTION SPEECH TO AZERBAIJAN VOTERS

M111945 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 24 Feb 84 pp 1-3

[Azerinform report: "In the Name of Man, for the Good of Man, Voters' Meeting With G.A. Aliyev"]

[Excerpts] The working people of Soviet Azerbaijan are greeting the USSR Supreme Soviet elections with splendid achievements in all spheres of socioeconomic life. They are approaching the nationwide festival of democracy closely rallied around the Communist Party and its Leninist Central Committee, having widely developed competition to fulfill ahead of schedule the plans and socialist pledges of the 4th year and the whole 5-year plan.

Representatives of the labor collectives of Baku's Leninskiy Electoral Okrug declared their unanimous determination to multiply their efforts in the struggle to implement the plans of the party, which is confidently leading the Soviet country toward communism, at a meeting with their candidate deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union -- Geydar Aliyevich Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. It was held 23 February in the festively decorated V.I. Lenin Palace.

In the presidium were G.A. Aliyev, who was warmly greeted by those assembled, and Comrades K.M. Bagirov, O.A. Bagirov, G.A. Gasanov, S.Ch. Kasumova, V.N. Konovalov, I.A. Mamedov, R.E. Mekhtiyev, F.E. Musayev, G.N. Seidov, S.B. Tatliyev, Z.M. Yusifzade, D.M. Muslim-zade, L.Kh. Rasulova, G.Sh. Efendiyev, Colonel General V.M. Arkhipov, commander of the Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District; V.A. Kondratyev, chief of a sector of the CPSU Central Committee Party Organizational Work Section; G.F. Sidorov, agent of the CPSU Central Committee Party Organizational Work Section; D.M. Asanov, F.G. Akhmedov, A.D. Lemberanskiy, A.N. Mutalibov, Sh.A. Rasi-zade, and G.V. Shcheglov, deputy chairmen of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers: Lieutenant General A.I. Shirinkin, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Directorate of the Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District; Academician G.A. Arbatov, director of the Institute of the United States and Canada; and members of the Okrug Electoral Commission.

The meeting was opened by F.E. Musayev, first secretary of Baku party gorkom. An honorary presidium comprising the CPSU Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade K.U. Chernenko was elected with great enthusiasm.

Warmly greeted by those present, Comrade G.A. Aliyev delivered a speech at the meeting.

Comrade G.A. Aliyev's Speech

Dear comrades!

Permit me wholeheartedly to thank you and all the voters of Baku's Leninskiy Okrug for the high honor you have bestowed on me by nominating me as your candidate deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet. (tumultuous applause). I attribute the trust shown in me, above all, to the Communist Party -- the Soviet people's political leader and the leading force of our society. (tumultuous applause).

During the election campaign we suffered a grievous loss. The life of Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, outstanding figure of the Communist Party and the Soviet state, ardent patriot of the socialist motherland, and indefatigable fighter for peace and communism, was cut short.

In paying tribute to the memory of a man who devoted his entire life, strength, and knowledge to the struggle for the triumph of communist ideas, Soviet people have closed their ranks still more tightly around the dear CPSU and its Leninist Central Committee.

Faith in the party and profound understanding of the fact that all our successes and gains have been achieved under its leadership and that its course is the only correct course meeting the working people's interests were vividly manifested in the warm approval with which Soviet people greeting the extraordinary CPSU Central Committee plenum decisions and Comrade Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko's election as general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. (tumultuous, prolonged applause). Communists and the entire people know Comrade K.U. Chernenko as an outstanding figure of our party and state, who is making a weighty contribution to elaborating and implementing the CPSU's domestic and foreign policy and to the theoretical substantiation of its general line. (applause).

Comrade K.U. Chernenko's speech at the extraordinary plenum has been perceived by all the country's working people as a document of great political significance. It emphasizes the continuity of the party's principled course -- a course of Communist creation and peace -- and reveals in depth the tasks of Soviet society's economic, social, and spiritual progress at the modern stage. The plenum urged Communists, the working class, and the entire Soviet people to forge ahead, relying on what was achieved earlier, creatively enriching it, and not stopping. That call has given a good boost to the labor and social enthusiasm with which Soviet people are working to fulfill the decisions of the historic 26th CPSU Congress and of plenums of the party's Central Committee.

Dear comrades! I joyfully fulfill the instructions of Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and convey to Baku's working people and to the entire people of Azerbaijan his cordial greetings and good wishes. (tumultuous, prolonged applause). Konstantin Ustinovich warmly recalled the days of his stay in Baku and his meetings with its working people and expressed confidence that the Communists and all working people of Azerbaijan will achieve new successes in fulfilling the economic and social development plans and in implementing all the party's plans. (tumultuous applause).

Unswervingly implementing the line of the 26th congress, our party relies on the people's inexhaustible creative strength. "The party's strength lies in unity with the people. The people's strength lies in unity with the party and in its leadership" -- this proposition of the 26th CPSU Congress wisely reflects the nature of the party's ties with the masses. The CPSU values unbreakable, monolithic unity with the people most of all. This unity was, is, and always will be the life-giving source of Soviet society's development and the guarantee of new achievements in communist construction. (tumultuous applause).

Comrades! Our state is a state of the entire people. This means that it expresses the will and interests of the people. This means that it works under the control of the people. This means that all organs of state power conduct their activity with the direct and broad participation of the people's masses.

It is natural, therefore, that every election to organs of state power becomes, in point of fact, a triumph of our whole people. It becomes a political reflection of the profound essence of socialism as a society created by the masses' historic creativity and governed by the masses -- a society that is democratic by its very nature.

Millions upon millions of Soviet people representing all classes and social groups and all the country's nations and ethnic groups participate daily in the management of society, the state, and production through the system of soviets of people's deputies. And we rightly see this as convincing evidence of real people's power and as graphic confirmation of the fact that V.I. Lenin's dream of a society in which the masses will themselves "increasingly take into their hands the entire management of the state, the entire management of the economy, and the entire management of production" has become the Soviet reality. (tumultuous applause).

The party devotes constant attention to involving the broad masses of working people in elaborating decisions on very important questions of state and social life. Graphic examples of this are the discussion and adoption of the Law on Labor Collectives, which has still further widened the scope for the masses to display initiative and enterprise, or the truly nationwide pedagogic council which is now examining the CPSU Central Committee draft reform of school matters. These examples convince us once again that the development of people's power is an immutable principle of our society. This was how Lenin instructed communists, and this is how we act. (tumultuous applause).

As the true masters of their country, in preparing for the elections to the supreme organ of people's power -- the USSR Supreme Soviet -- Soviet people are exactingly analyzing the period since the previous elections.

It has been a very important period for the life of the party and the people, a period replete with events of great political significance. During this time the 26th CPSU Congress and a number of plenums of our party's Central Committee, including the November (1982) and the extraordinary plenum, have been held, and they have enriched us with a new vision of the key problems of the country's development and of the movement toward communism and armed us with a clear and precise action program. The celebration of the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation was a vivid demonstration of the triumph of the CPSU's Leninist nationalities policy. The party and all working people are working strenuously and fruitfully to fulfill the outlined plans. New successes have been achieved in developing the national economy, science, and culture and in implementing social programs, that is, in all the multifaceted activity which constitutes the further improvement of developed socialism. So, the Soviet state has done reliable groundwork, as the saying goes, for the new elections. (tumultuous applause).

But a good master is good because, while rejoicing at what has been done, he does not forget what has not been done or what has not been done in full. A good master, you will agree, always looks ahead. And the working people of the land of the soviets, taking pride in the homeland's achievements, direct their thoughts toward tomorrow, toward new, still more impressive deeds.

The chief thing -- in which the Soviet people's inherent sense of being the master now manifests itself -- is concern for the successful and full realization of the strategy of economic and social development outlined in the 26th CPSU Congress documents and enshrined in the decisions of subsequent Central Committee plenums. As you yourselves understand, comrades, the development of the economy is the key direction here. It is known that the situation in this sphere has not taken shape in a simple manner in recent years. There were many reasons for this: the sequence of arid years, the influence of the international situation, which had been exacerbated not through our fault, and other negative factors that you know about. Nevertheless, it can be pointed out with profound satisfaction that even in such a complex situation the party finds correct solutions to the problems which have arisen. (applause).

The implementation, which began last year, of interrelated measures to improve the style and methods of all our work, to enhance cadres' responsibility and the standard of management, to accelerate scientific and technical progress, to strengthen labor, planning, and state discipline, and to intensify organization has made it possible to make appreciable advances in many sectors in a comparatively short time. The targets of the 3d year of the 5-year plan were successfully fulfilled, and a higher economic growth rate was achieved than in the previous 2 years. The economy's quality indicators improved somewhat. The development of sectors which determine scientific and technical progress, as well as sectors which produce consumer goods, has been marked by positive results. New forms of management of the agro-industrial complex have well proved themselves, the economy of kolkhozes and sovkhozes has strengthened, and there are definite successes in fulfilling the Food Program.

If we take these changes as a whole, there is every reason to say that positive changes have become apparent in the development of the national economy. And this, comrades, cannot fail to bring joy. (applause).

The party has never regarded and does not now regard the resolution of economic questions as an end in itself. Soviet people well know that everything the CPSU does is done in the name of man, for the good of man. This slogan embodies the supreme meaning of our policy and is inscribed on our banner, and we will never deviate from it! (tumultuous, prolonged applause).

Now, too, on the threshold of the elections, literally every Soviet person can judge the realization of that slogan from the example of his own life and the life of his family. I think that everyone has grounds for drawing just one conclusion: Despite the difficulties that have occurred during the years separating us from the previous elections, the line of enhancing the people's well-being is being consistently implemented. (applause).

On the whole, three-fourths of our national income is channeled directly into consumption. And the weight of this share is increasing yearly. Thus, whereas in 1979 R324 billion was used for consumption, last year this indicator was really close to R400 billion. The realization of the measures planned for the 11th 5-Year Plan to enhance the people's well-being resulted in the average monthly wages of workers and employees in the national economy reaching R182 in 1983.

We must also not lose sight of the fact that material well-being in our society certainly does not boil down to monetary income. Public consumption funds, thanks to which a considerable proportion of social needs is satisfied, are of tremendous significance to every Soviet person. The annual payments and benefits from these funds now total almost R500 for every one of our compatriots.

General expenditure on sociocultural measures has also increased substantially during the period under review. This year, for example, it will reach R118 billion, amounting to almost one-third of all budget appropriations. This, comrades, means new schools, kindergartens, creches, public health and cultural establishments, and rest for working people. It means joy for the 50 million Soviet people who have improved their housing conditions. (applause).

I think, dear friends, we are all confident; much that is good and fine awaits Soviet people in the future, too. This confidence can probably be seen as one of the most important criteria of the quality of our socialist life and as a very important precondition for future successes. (tumultuous applause).

At the same time we all clearly realize that we have a single source for improving the people's well-being. This source is the labor of each and everyone at his post or workplace, quality work with full awareness of its significance both for the country and for his own prosperity. The greater the scope of our creative activity, the more important is this awareness of the great significance of the labor of every one of us and the more important is an honest, responsible attitude toward work by everyone -- from worker to minister. One of the chief principles of our democracy, as Lenin formulated it, consists in the fact that a definite person is wholly responsible to the people, the party, and the state for fulfilling definite work and that society's concern for every citizen's well-being and for ensuring his constitutional rights is inseparable from everyone's worthy fulfillment of his own duties to society.

It is all the more important to speak about this now that the party directs us -- and this was emphasized with special force at the Central Committee's December (1983) and extraordinary plenums -- to consolidate and strengthen in every possible way the positive changes in the national economy and to achieve a new acceleration of our progress. If we translate this task into the language of policy, it is a question of resolutely improving the efficiency of all components of the national economic complex, and what is more, of improving the efficiency of all spheres of our society's life.

A great deal is being done in this direction in the country. We are sure that measures to improve the management machinery, which are now being approved in large-scale economic experiments, will be of good service here. The results of work on programs such as the Energy Program, the program for the transformation of the RSFSR's non-chernozem Zone, and a number of others are beginning to be felt. The fruits of the efforts of the party and state in consistently implementing a unified scientific and technical policy and in accelerating the pace of scientific and technical progress are becoming increasingly noticeable.

But, of course, none of these factors works automatically, of its own accord. Therefore, the efficient organization of all work at the center and locally, an active search for and the increasingly full utilization of new reserves for production growth, and a conscientious, creative attitude toward the job by each of us are decisive conditions for fulfilling the tasks facing the country today. This, dear comrades, is the key to achieving lasting successes in the national economy. (tumultuous applause).

It is very good that this key has been firmly grasped by the reliable hands of our working class, kolkhoz peasantry, and people's intelligentsia. The movement to achieve an above-plan increase of at least 1 percent in labor productivity and a reduction of an additional 0.5 percent in production prime costs has been developed all over the country. Appropriate measures have been elaborated in every labor collective. If they are realized in full, the country will receive this year an additional approximately 14.7 billion kilowatt hours of electricity, 6.2 million metric tons of oil and condensate, 1.1 million metric tons of rolled steel, and much besides. There will be more industrial goods, foodstuffs, and housing.

Strenuous pledges, comrades, to put it bluntly. However, the experience of foremost enterprises, associations, and sectors shows that this is perfectly possible for everyone. The secret here, if I can put it like this, is to make better use of the existing equipment and capacities, improve the shift coefficient, ensure reliable material and technical supplies, and save material resources. It is to make wide use of such a progressive form of labor organization and incentive as team contracting. It is to make persistent efforts to intensify production and to strengthen its ties with science.

It is our paramount duty to utilize all these possibilities. The efforts of everyone -- Communists and nonparty people, ordinary working people and leaders, young workers and veterans -- must be directed toward just this.

What is necessary for this? Above all, it is necessary to give still greater scope to the creative questing and initiative of the masses, to rely more boldly on the strength of the labor collective, and to strive for the effective utilization of the rights afforded it by the law. It is important to make still higher demands on production commanders and specialists for the organization of work, for the validity of decisions, and for the moral and psychological climate in the collective. And, undoubtedly, it is necessary to further intensify work on strengthening discipline and organization in every sector and production link and to turn this work into a constant factor. "The question of organization and order," Comrade K.U. Chernenko emphasized in his speech at the extraordinary plenum, "is a key, fundamental question for us. There can be no two opinions about this." (tumultuous applause).

Only in this way will we achieve a steady rise in labor productivity and a reduction in production prime costs, thereby producing more output with fewer workers. And thus we will still further strengthen the material basis of further improving the Soviet people's life and increase still further our socialist homeland's economic and defense might. (tumultuous applause).

Comrades! In the unified national economic complex all components are important. However, there are components without which the complex is simply inconceivable. These are the management, information, and communication systems, centralized material and technical supply and the planned distribution of resources, and, of course, transportation, which under the conditions of such a vast country as ours has an absolutely special and exceptionally multifaceted role to play.

An economic role because transportation is, I would say, the economic lifeblood of the whole country. It largely determines the efficiency of production collaboration and the effectiveness of economic ties among republics, krays, oblasts, and territorial production complexes, ensuring their unification in a single national economic complex.

A political role because it is precisely transportation and all its forms and systems that enable us to really feel like members of a single family -- the great Soviet people and the unified Soviet state -- that create the living fabric of diverse relations among all the regions of the socialist homeland, that bring the city and the countryside closer together, and that largely condition our participation in the international division of labor and the state of our defense capability.

A psychological role because in point of fact every Soviet person uses the services of transport, and does so every day. Consequently, transportation, particularly city transportation, its state, and the quality of its work have a powerful effect on the psychological atmosphere of the huge masses of the population and, it may be said, on the labor mood of the entire people.

The Communist Party and the Soviet state devote paramount attention to questions of developing transportation. Our transportation complex, which includes all forms of transportation -- railroad, motor vehicle, sea, river, air, pipeline, and gas main -- holds one of the first places in terms of the amount of fixed capital and the size of the capital investments allocated. Every 10th worker in our country works in this sphere.

In recent years, as is known, the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers have implemented a number of major measures aimed at strengthening the material and technical base of all forms of transportation, raising the level of discipline and responsibility of cadres, and strengthening efficiency and organization in work. It is nice to note, comrades, that these measures have yielded tangible results. In particular, the work of railroad transport has improved for the first time in recent years. It not only fulfilled the main indicators for the 3d year of the 5-year plan but also eliminated the lag permitted in 1981 and 1982. There is probably no need to explain what this means, for rail transport accounts for almost 50 percent of all freight turnover and more than one-third of passenger transportation operations in the country.

We pin great hopes on the commissioning of the Baykal-Amur Mainline (BAM), which is rightly called the century's most impressive construction project in the whole world. By the beginning of 1984 2,756 km of the BAM main track had been laid, and approximately 300 km still remain. The new BAM railroad [administration] has been organized, and 15,000 workers, employees, and specialists work for it. Well-appointed settlements have grown up for the construction workers and railmen. Through-traffic will be inaugurated over the entire length of the railroad before the end of this year.

All other sectors of the transportation complex are also developing actively.

At the same time we have no grounds for complacency. The requirements of social development are making increasingly high demands on the transportation system. As was pointed out at the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum, there are more reserves and unutilized opportunities here than anywhere, which can be commissioned in a short space of time. A very great deal in this sphere can be provided by the further expansion of water transportation primarily on rivers, and the accelerated development of the network of roads, pipelines, and gas mains in regions of intensive economic development.

Great potential is enshrined in the further development of motor transportation, which is now the chief means of delivering freight and transporting passengers short distances. The implementation of the CPSU Central Committe and USSR Council of Ministers resolution adopted last year, which outlined measures to improve the work of motor transport, has made it possible to improve the efficiency of its utilization in the national economy and to achieve a certain saving of fuels and oils. Labor collectives of motor transportation enterprises must work still more actively to fulfill that important document. It is necessary to strive particularly persistently to eradicate such a scandalous evil as overreporting in freight transportation and the embezzlement of fuel. Success in this struggle is inconceivable without the very broad participation of the working people themselves.

In striving to make more productive use of the transportation resources already at our disposal, it is especially necessary to tackle the problem of rationalizing transportation operations. The lack of proper order in this work sometimes leads to crosshauls of absolutely identical products, above-normative idle time of vehicles, and so forth. This entails losses of missions of metric tons of fuel and kilowatt hours of electricity, longer freight delivery times, the need to build more and more new locomotives, ships, cars, and trucks, and in the final analysis, imposes an additional strain in fulfilling national economic plans. This is why everyone involved in the work of the transportation system today is not just called upon but is obliged to seek ways more actively to rationalize freight flows on the scale of oblasts, territorial production complexes, republics, and the country as a whole.

The improvement of passenger transportation is of special significance. These operations are, in a way, the public face of transportation, and frankly speaking, this face still does not always look attractive. Services for passengers in railroad, sea, and river stations, in airports, and en route still remain poor and, in some places, simply unsatisfactory. Frequent violations of the timetable still elicit justified complaints from citizens. The leadership of transportation ministries and departments and party, trade union, and Komsomol organizations must most resolutely eradicate these shortcomings, improve the general standard of services, and ensure that the improper actions of certain transportation workers, which are still encountered, are completely eliminated. This is not just an economic question. It is also a political question. And precisely this is how it must be approached. (applause)

Comrades! Life shows that along with our society's economic progress and the increasingly full satisfaciton of the Soviet people's material needs, the basis on which the social, cultural, and spiritual values of our way of life are shaped, asserted, and improved is made stronger. This includes the constant growth of people's awareness and culture, and also of the culture of sensible consumption. It also includes exemplary public order, healthy, rational nutrition, and high-quality services for the population. It also includes the full -- from a moral and aesthetic viewpoint -- of free time. In short, everything that is understood today as socialist civilization.

This concept reflects the very profound humanism of our system. Socialism, having broken with the principles and morals of private-ownership civilization, has enriched mankind with the loftiest norms of relations between society and the individual and opened up before everyone inexhaustible potential for harmonious development and broad optimistic prospects for real creative action.

Of course, the development of socialist civilization and the manifestation of its humane substance in the life of the millions-strong masses are by no means a unique, unambiguous act. Much here depends on each one of us -- on our desire really to follow the principles of socialism in matters large and small, which assert man's judicious and noble existence. Much here depends also on society -- on the activity of its state and social institutions and, chiefly, on the potential that it possesses at a given time and, of course, on the quality of the use of that potential.

As already pointed out, the Communist Party and the Soviet state channel considerable financial and material resources into satisfying the working people's growing needs. However, they are still not as great as we would like. And this is why the judicious, skillful use of the funds allocated is a task of paramount importance. And, to pose this question more broadly, we must speak about resolutely improving the efficiency of the sociocultural sphere as a whole.

The chief role here belongs above all -- and this is understandable -- to those who work in this sphere. The entire complexion of sociocultural institutions and the moral and psychological atmosphere in society largely depend on their ability to manage the resources allocated and to organize the work of establishments and organizations, on their initiative and conscientiousness, and, finally, on their sensitivity and attention. It is their duty to ensure that the Soviet person can always and everywhere satisfy his needs for education and medical assistance and for an introduction to the values of culture and art, and satisfy them at the maximum level possible under modern conditions, in accordance with the ideals and standards of the socialist way of life. (applause)

A major and historic -- in the full sense of the word -- achievement in this sphere is the education system created over the years of Soviet power. Our general educational and vocational schools and secondary specialized and higher educational institutions have played an invaluable role in the rapid ascension toward the heights of science, technology, and culture and in the vigorous economic and social progress which has marked the path of the land of the soviets.

At the same time new tasks are facing general educational and vocational schools and VUZes today, under the conditions of the scientific and technical revolution and the high pace of social development. In point of fact they concern the molding of our society's future complexion and how to raise and educate young generations with maximum regard for the conditions under which they are to live and work on the threshold of the 21st century and in subsequent years. These tasks must be resolved by starting with the initial, base link of the entire education system. It was this that predetermined the need for a reform of general educational and vocational schools, whose draft Soviet people are now discussing with such vigor and interest.

Our party and state invariably consider concern for Soviet people's health one of their most important social tasks.

Much has been done to improve public health care over the years since the previous elections. I believe you yourselves have sensed this. But many shortcomings still remain. Primarily, the work of polyclinics, outpatient departments, health centers, and hospitals should be substantially improved. Here citizens encounter -- still frequently, unfortunately -- manifestations of rudeness, inattention, and negligence and even attempts at extortion on the part of certain medical workers. These are phenomena alien to our morality and our way of life. They are particularly intolerable among people representing the most humane profession in the world. We are obliged to instill proper order in this sector. (applause)

The chief thing in improving health care is to resolutely improve its preventive orientation and the population's medical education. This aim is served by the truly strategic program for developing Soviet health care which was outlined by the CPSU Central Committee June (1983) Plenum and is already starting to be implemented. It is a question of introducing annual physicals for the whole population. You can imagine the scale of this work if you recall that it requires the annual medical examination of more than 270 million Soviet citizens. This, comrades, is unparalleled and supremely noble work which shows yet again that our party is really doing everything possible for the Soviet person. (tumultuous applause).

But concern for Soviet people's health by no means exhausts the potential of medicine. We all well know what a powerful factor for preserving health, fitness for work, and good psychological tone regular physical training and sports are. We have a good cadre and material-technical base for this. The number of sports facilities in the country has now reached 700,000, and appropriations for physical training and sport from the state budget and from trade unions have exceeded R1 billion per year.

Nevertheless, the scale of introducing working people to regular physical training and sport is far from what it could and should be. The coordination of this important work is still poor. Narrow departmentalism frequently results in some people having nowhere to engage in physical training and sport, while others have empty halls and stadiums. Questions of providing working people with sports clothes and equipment on a mass scale have not been resolved. And certain leaders still consider physical training and sport almost a hindrance to the labor process, forgetting that physical training is an inalienable part of a man's general culture. (applause).

The time has come to tackle more actively questions of organizing the mass physical training movement. Closer cooperation between health care and physical training and sports organs could yield a great deal here. It must be arranged so that the preventive measures taken by medical establishments link up with the efforts of sports societies and organizations aimed at getting the masses accustomed to regular physical training exercises.

It is obvious that there is also a pressing need for a certain reorganization of the activity of sports organizations. We all rejoice at the achievements of Soviet sportsmen who bring glory to our country at world championships and in olympiads. But the training of of such masters by no means relives sports organizations of concern for the needs of mass physical training and fitness work among the population. These organizations must become real champions of mass health. And here, of course, neither time nor effort should be spared. (applause).

Comrades:

For understandable reasons I am particulary pleased to point out that the glorious multinational detachment of Azerbaijan's working people and the republic's Communist Party are making a worthy contribution to resolving both the tasks mentioned here and many others. (tumultuous applause).

During the 5 years that separate us from the previous elections that Azerbaijan SSR has taken a significant step forward in all directions of economic and cultural building. Suffice it to say that the national income has increased 40 percent, and industrial production has increased more than 38 percent. Its absolute increase over the 5 years totaled R3.4 billion -- which is equivalent to the entire volume of the republic's industrial production in 1965.

The consistent implementation of measures to improve the structure of industry, to modernize and retool old enterprises, and to create new sectors determining scientific and technical progress has fundamentally changed Azerbaijan's industrial complexion.

A highly developed, powerful agro-industrial complex has taken shape in the republic before your eyes and mine and is making a weighty contribution to implementing the country's Food Program. Gross agricultural production has increased 40 percent over the 5 years, while grape production has increased 100 percent and raw cotton production 70 percent. There has been a considerable increase in the production and purchases of meat, milk, and eggs.

The level of prosperity of the republic's working people is also growing. Their real incomes have increased 18.4 percent. The population has received payments and benefits to the tune of R9.5 billion from public consumption funds. Almost 800,000 people have improved their housing conditions. Just as throughout the country, great work has been done to develop science, culture, health care, and education.

As you know, comrades, the first 2 years after the elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet of the previous convocation were in the 10th 5-Year Plan, which the republic's working people fulfilled long ahead of schedule. The splendid labor victory was marked by the award of a third Order of Lenin to the Azerbaijan SSR. (tumultuous applause).

Azerbaijan is also striding out confidently in the 11th 5-Year-Plan. (applause).

Over the past 3 years the volume of industrial production has increased 18.2 percent, and labor productivity in industry has increased 13.3 percent. This is higher than the outlines of the 5-year plan. The proportion of output with the seal of quality has more than doubled. Almost all indicators of production efficiency have improved. Gross agricultural output has increased 28.3 percent compared with the average annual level of the 10th 5-Year Plan.

You particularly feel Azerbaijan's distinct labor pulse here, in the republic's orderly capital. During the first 3 years of the 11th 5-Year Plan alone the city's fixed industrial production capital increased more than 14 percent. One in every six Baku residents has moved into new accommodation. The republic's capital is becoming increasingly beautiful and well-appointed year by year. (applause). The republic's working people have also begun the 4th year of the 5-year plan well.

Everything that has been achieved is the fruit of the selfless labor of the heroic working class, the kolkhoz peasantry, and the people's intelligentsia. The republic's successes are the result of the active and fruitful work of the party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organizations and the purposeful organizational, political, and ideological education activity of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee and the Central Committee Bureau. (tumultuous applause).

Implementing the 26th CPSU Congress and Central Committee plenum decisions, the republic's party organization is striving for the steady growth of social production and its qualitative indicators and is seeking to enhance the diligence and responsibility of cadres, to strengthen state, planning, and labor discipline, and to step up ideological and moral education.

Your achievements, comrades, receive the high assessment of the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government. On the results of the all-union socialist competition for 1983 the Azerbaijan SSR was awarded the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee Challenge Red Banner for the 14th year in succession. (tumultuous applause).

Together with you, dear comrades, I wholeheartedly rejoice at that victory. (tumultuous applause). Azerbaijan's working people have reaffirmed their loyalty to their splendid traditions. (applause). I cordially congratualte you, the workers, kolkhoz members, and intelligentsia, and the party organization of Azerbaijan on the motherland's high award and wish you good health, prosperity, and new achievements in fulfilling the tasks facing the republic (tumultuous, prolonged applause).

The achievements of Soviet Azerbaijan, as of every republic and every people of our country, are the result of consistently implementing the CPSU's Leninist nationalities policy and are most vivid evidence of its inexhaustible life-giving force. Wise, farsighted and permeated with socialist humanism, this policy has ensured the free and all-around development of all the nations and ethnic groups of the land of the soviets and their unbreakable unity and fraternal friendship. (applause).

The friendship of the peoples is our priceless asset and one of socialism's gains which enrich world civilization and raise it to a new level. It has opened up an unprecedented source of economic, social, and cultural progress, multiplied our potential many time over, and given rise to qualitatively new and essentially internationalist spiritual, aesthetic, and moral values.

A new social and international community of people -- the soviet people -- has become the concentrated expression of successes and the true triumph of the party's Lenisist nationalities policy.

This community embodies the multifaceted processes of the flowering and rapprochement of nations and ethnic groups, the mutual influencing and mutual enriching of their cultures, and the strengthening of the socioeconomic, sociopolitical, and ideological unity of Soviet society, graphically demonstrating the communist thrust of all our development.

An outstanding role in all these achievements belongs to the great Russian people. (tumultuous applause). Even today the Russian people generously share their tremendous material and spiritual property and very rich historical experience. The Russian language has organically entered the lives of millions of people of any nationality, playing a indispensable role in the rapprochement of all our peoples and in introducing them to the riches of world culture.

The improvement of developed socialism is inseparable from the consistent implementation of a nationalities policy aimed at further improving national relations and strengthening the unity and cohesion of all Soviet peoples. The party conducts this work in many directions.

The fostering in every citizen of internationalist awareness and mentality, of a sense of belonging to the united Soviet people, and of love for the socialist motherland is a task of lasting significance. Under the conditions of increasingly intensive, diverse ties among the republics and the multinational composition of their population is is very important to skillfully and actively mold in Soviet people the culture of internation communication and the internationalist ethics of behavior. This must be the daily concern of all party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organizations, the press, television, and radio.

Life and experience convince us: the wider and deeper ties among the USSR's republics and peoples become, the stronger is the sense of responsibility of every people and every citizen, regardless of nationality, for the fate of the unified socialist homeland and the greater is their desire to make a worthy contribution to increasing the might and cohesion of our multinational Soviet state. (tumultuous applause). This feeling born of socialism, in which patriotism and internationalism are indissolubly blended, is one of the powerful motive forces of our development. And we are confident that the people of Azerbaijan will continue to augment our motherland's might by their labor, strengthen the Soviet people's unbreakable fraternity, and bear aloft the banner of proletarian, socialist internationalism. (tumultuous, prolonged applause).

Comrades, my meetings these days with the labor collectives of the Leninskiy, Ordzhonikidzevskiy, Azizbekovskiy, Kirovskiy, and Karadagskiy Rayons once again convince me that a healthy moral and psychological atmosphere and a good, businesslike mood are firmly established in Azerbiajan. People are working with full awareness of their responsibility for the cause of the collective, the city, the republic, and the entire country. (applause).

The communists and the entire people of Azerbaijan are closely rallied around the dear Communist Party and its Leninist Central Committee. And this is the guarantee of further successes. (tumultuous applause).

The Azerbiajan working people's high awareness and responsibility are also manifested in the fact that they speak openly of shortcomings, shortfally, and unresolved problems. There are, unfortunately, really quite a lot of them. On analyzing the results achieved from the positions of the high demands of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) and extraordinary plenums, you see that the republic has many unutilized reserves and possibilities.

You have enterprises and associations and even sectors which lag behind the 5-year plan targets for the production and sales of output and for its quality and range. A decisive turn toward questions of intensifying production and accelerating scientific and technical progress is still being made slowly. In agriculture the standard of arable farming and livestock raising requires further improvement. There are still sometimes large discrepancies in crop yields and livestock productivity in rayons and farms which have identical soil and climatic conditions and which possess equal material and technical potentials.

In construction the dissipation of resources and means among numerous projects has not been eliminated. Not everything is well with the times, and, particularly, the quality of construction and installation work.

I wish to focus your attention on one other problem. It is a question of saving material and technical resources. The following date attest to the urgency of this problem.

In the republic's machine-building enterprises waste metal amounts to 17 percent of all that they consume, while still more metal ends up as shavings in certain plants. Losses of electricity in the networks amount to 12 percent of all the electricity generated in Azerbaijan, and losses of gas during transportation exceed the prescribed norm by 250 percent. Such mismanagement means losses of many millions for the republic.

I think it would be right for every labor collective to adopt additional pledges for economy and thrift and, most importantly, not just adopt them but also make every effort to fulfill them. This will make it possible, in the final analysis, to obtain more industrial and agricultural output and to make it of better quality and longer lasting.

The fate of our plans is decided in labor collectives. Therefore it is important in every one of them to make a principled and businesslike analysis of the successes and shortcomings in work and to determine specific measures and ways to improve the state of affairs. It is necessary, comrades, to display initiative, conscientiousness, and selflessness at all levels in the name of improving economic efficiency and enhancing the people's well-being.

And another wish: Do not relax the struggle, comrades, against negative phenomena, abuses of official position, bribery, embezzlement of public property, petit bourgeois mentality, and parasitism -- everything that is contrary to the essence of our system, our morality, and our laws. (tumultuous applause). This is a reliable means of shaping the active life stance of every communist and nonparty person and accelerating our onward progress. (applause).

Comrades! Peace is the most important, indispensable condition for successfully implementing our creative plans. Today the question of preserving peace and ensuring the security of all the planet's peoples is more acute than ever.

The threat hanging over mankind stems from imperialism's aggressive policy aimed at escalating the arms race, achieving military superiority, and grossly interfering in other states' internal affairs. Whatever part of the workd we take -- from Central America to the Near East -- everywhere we see manifestations of this reckless, adventurist policy, we see hotbeds of violence and military conflicts and the sufferings of peoples who have fallen victim to imperalist aggression and fiat. But this policy is spearheaded, above all, against socialism, for it is precisely the Soviet Union and the socialist community countries that represent the chief obstacle to the global pretensions of imperialist reaction.

For our party and state there has not been, nor is there, any question of what course to follow in international affairs. It is embodied in the Leninist policy of peace, whose chief features at the present historical stage are defined in the decisions of the last party congresses. And we are consistently and persistently following this course in the present seriously exacerbated situation. True to Lenin's behests, we firmly hold the peace initiative in our hands, are pursuing an active foreign policy, and are doing everything to return the development of international relations to the path of detente and cooperation and to advance the cause of reducing and limiting nuclear arms.

This is the purpose of the broad package of proposals and initiatives of fundamental significance advanced by our country and contained in the Warsaw Pact countries' joint documents. This aim is served by the proposals submitted by the Soviet Union at the last UN General Assembly session. Together with its allies the Soviet state has advanced important initiatives at the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. These steps or ours, which have confirmed with new force that the Soviet people's will for peace is immutable, have elicited a wide response from all the planet's progressive forces. (applause).

At the same time history has taught us to be vigilant in the face of imperialism's militarist activity and to follow attentively the development of the international situation. We do not seek to achieve military superiority, but neither can we calmly watch imperialism's attempts to upset the military equilibrium that has been achieved. In response to the deployment of American nuclear missiles in Europe the Soviet state was forced, jointly with its Warsaw Pact allies, to take the measures necessary to reliably protect the security of their peoples. We will continue to spare no effort to maintain at the proper level the defense might of our country -- a powerful factor in curbing imperialism's aggressive aspirations. (tumultuous applause).

Comrades! It so happens that our meeting is taking place on Soviet Army and Navy Day. Allow me to cordially congratulate the representatives of our glorious Armed Forces who are present here and all of you on the festival and to wish Soviet servicemen new successes in the sacred cause of defending the socialist motherland! (tumultuous, prolonged applause).

A world without wars is socialism's ideal. The USSR is a committed champion of resolving urgent international problems by political, not military means, and around the negotiating table, not by means of confrontation. As Comrade K. U. Chernenko pointed out in his speech at the extraordinary plenum, the Soviet Union will cooperate in full with all states which are prepared to help reduce international tension by practical deeds and to create an atmosphere of trust in the world.

The struggle for peace knows neither breathing spaces nor pauses. Together with our country and the fraternal socialist states it is being waged by communist and workers parties, fighters for national and social liberation, and the broad people's masses, who advocate preventing a nuclear conflagration and the right to life for present and future generations.

Soviet people are confident that the forces of peace will prevail over the forces of war. (tumultuous applause).

Comrades! The party is going to the elections with a program for the country's further economic, social, and spiritual progress, the enhancement of the working people's well-being, and struggle against the threat of nuclear war and for peace and the people's freedom and national independence.

It is set forth in the party Central Committee's appeal to voters. This program aimed at making the Soviet people's life still better and peace on earth more reliable accords with the vital interests of the working class and the entire Soviet people and enjoys their warm approval and support. This is a firm guarantee that all our plans will be implemented and the country will achieve new successes in its great movement toward communism. (tumultuous, prolonged applause).

Dear Comrades!

This is the fourth time that you have conferred upon me the honor of being your representative on the country's supreme organ of state power. This imposes a high responsibility. I assure you that I will continue to do everything to justify your confidence, faithfully serve the Leninist party's cause, and struggle actively for the realization of communist ideals. (tumultuous, prolonged applause).

In conclusion, masters of the arts gave a concert.

MARSHAL KURKOTKIN'S ELECTION ADDRESS REPORTED

PM091636 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 22 Feb 84 p 3

[GRUZINFORM report: "Hearts' Single Rhythm"]

[Excerpts] The meeting of the voters of Tetritskaroyskiy No 188 Electoral Okrug for the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities elections with their candidate Deputy Marshal of the Soviet Union Seman Konstantin Kurkotkin, deputy minister of defense and chief of the USSR Armed Forces Rear Services, was one more graphic manifestation of the unity of the Army and people. The meeting was held 18 February at the Tetritskaroyskiy Rayon Culture Center.

With S.K. Kurkotkin in the meeting presidium were Colonel General V.M. Arkhipov, commander of the Red Banner Transcausasus Military District; N.A. Chitanava, first deputy chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers; and representatives of the labor collectives and party and public organizations of Tetritskaroyskiy, Dmanisskiy, and Tsalkskiy Rayons.

The meeting was opened by D.D. Bedukadze, first secretary of the Tetritskaroyskiy Raykom.

An honorary presidium consisting of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo headed by K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, was unanimously elected.

S.K. Kurkotkin, who was warmly welcomed by those assembled, delivered a speech. Thanking the voters for the trust placed in him, he stressed that he interpreted it as evidence of the working people's profound respect for their armed forces.

The present election campaign, the candidate deputy said, is proceeding at a crucial stage in the Soviet people's life from the viewpoint of both the country's internal development and the international situation. Positive advances have emerged in the national economy. Effective steps are being taken in the country to improve the economic mechanism, raise the working people's organization, initiative, and creative activeness, and consolidate state and plan discipline. Inspired by the CPSU Central Committee extraordinary February (1984) Plenum and the premises and conclusions contained in the speech delivered at the plenum by K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Soviet people are doing everything to preserve the pace they have achieved and their general mood for the practical solution of tasks and to develop positive trends more actively.

The Soviet economy -- the foundation of the fatherland's power -- has been raised to a new level, S.K. Kurkotkin said. National income has increased since the previous elections, and over four-fifths of the increase in it has been obtained by raising labor productivity. Fixed production capital has risen almost 40 percent. Over 1,000 new industrial enterprises have been commissioned. The natural resources of Siberia and the Far East are being successfully developed, the Baykal-Amur railroad is being commissioned, and the world's largest gas pipeline, running through Urengoy, Pomary, and Uzhgorod, has been constructed ahead of schedule.

As a result of the party's great organizational and political work and the people's strenuous labor, the economic growth rate has increased. Tireless concern is being displayed for boosting agriculture. In the past 5 years some R186 billion -- almost 17 percent more than in the previous 5-year period -- have been spent on developing this vitally important sector. The Food Program has become a nationwide concern.

The working people of the Gerogian SSR and especially those of Tetritskaroyskiy, Dmanisskiy, and Tsalkskiy Rayons are making a fitting contribution to the fulfillment of the decisions of the 26th party congress.

Our party's foreign policy activity is closely and indivisibly linked with our party's internal tasks, S. K. Kurkotkin stressed. Socialism and peace are indivisible and for us there is no cause more sacred than preserving lasting peace. But the U.S. Administration, taking no account of the interests of other states and peoples, is trying to secure dominant world positions. The blatantly aggressive goals of the United States and NATO are aimed at undermining the economy of the USSR and the other socialist community countries and at unleashing an even broader offensive against the USSR on the ideological front. With the aid of military strength the imperialists are trying to prevent the progressive development of the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America and are openly interfering in the internal affairs of many states and undertaking direct material preparation for a new war.

In the complex international situation the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government are displaying truly Leninist restraint, firmness, and principle, steering a course toward preserving peace and safeguarding international security. At the same time practical steps are being taken to strengthen our country's defense capability and to safeguard the security of the Soviet people and their allies.

The political officer personnel and engineering personnel of the Armed Forces are constantly working on raising the combat readiness of the troops and naval forces. Soviet military doctrine is of a defensive nature. That means we will never be the first to use nuclear weapons and military force. But our Army is at a supreme degree of readiness to resolutely repel any aggressor.

We military men, the speaker then stressed, highly prize the paternal concern of the party and people for the Armed Forces and for our part we are making the maximum efforts to make the most effective possible use of what the Soviet people give us so generously. The Army and Navy are constantly improving combat and political training. Military discipline and organization are strengthening. Among the troops and in the fleets, as throughout the country, socialist competition has acquired broad scope. The martial collectives' labor pulse is beating powerfully and constantly.

Soviet servicemen are taking an active part in the country's statewide political and economic life. Thousands of their representatives have been elected to the soviets of people's deputies and to party and Komsomol organizations. In the busy harvest time servicemen help bring in the harvest. They take part in constructing important national economic projects.

The Army and Navy servicemen link all their successes and achievements and all their plans for the future with the Communist Party's activity. In its leadership they see a very important source of our Armed Forces' strength and invincibility.

In conclusion S.K. Kurkotkin once more thanked the voters for their high trust and assured them he will do everything to fulfill their mandates and further strengthen the country's defense might.

OGARKOV ELECTION SPEECH IN VILNIUS REPORTED

PM091439 Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 21 Feb 84 p 3

[Elta report: "Our Strength Lies in Unity"]

[Text] Kaunas -- Voters have met with candidate deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities for Kaunasskiy-Panemunskiy No 235 Electoral Okrug, Marshal of the Soviet Union Nikolay Vasilyevich Ogarkov, chief of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff and USSR first deputy defense minister.

The candidate deputy's agents, K. Galkauskas, party committee secretary at the synthetic fiber plant named for the 50th anniversary of October; L. Sherelene, deputy chief production engineer at the "Yesya" experimental artistic ceramics plant, and R. Daugela, director of the Yu. Yanonis paper factory, told the meeting about N.V. Ogarkov's life and about his contribution to strengthening the country's defense might. The speakers at the meeting, Great Patriotic War veteran S. Boyev, carpenter at the "Kauno Balday" association, and G. Kerutskayte, technical controller at the housing construction combine, noted that N.V. Ogarkov, deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet of the previous convocation, has been constantly interested in the life of the collectives of Panemune and of the city and has been conscientiously carrying out the voters' mandates. They urged the voters to vote unanimously for the candidates of the bloc of Communists and nonparty people.

Sincerely thanking the working people of Panemunskiy Okrug for their confidence, the candidate deputy stressed that Soviet people warmly approve the decisions of the extraordinary CPSU Central Committee Plenum, the election of K.U. Chernenko as CPSU Central Committee general secretary and the propositions and conclusions contained in his plenum speech. The plenum unanimously confirmed the continuity of the party's course in the implementation of the country's domestic and foreign policy.

N.V. Ogarkov noted that as a result of the people's cohesive efforts our country is moving forward successfully in all spheres of economic and cultural activity. The people of Kaunas have made considerable achievements in all-union socialist competition. The candidate deputy congratulated the city's working people on the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU and Komsomol Central Committee Challenge Red Banner won as a result of selfless labor in the third year of the 5-year plan.

The United States and the NATO countries are rattling their sabers more than ever before, the speaker noted. White House officials are stubbornly refusing to admit that the nuclear arms race is senseless both economically and militarily.

The world's peace champions, in whose vanguard the Soviet Union marches, are opposing the instigators of a new war. As a representative of the Armed Forces, I can assure the voters that our country's defense might and the Soviet Army's combat readiness are capable of blocking any aggressor's path.

A source of vigor for the Soviet Armed Forces is their close link with the people. Today, educated and physically hardened young people are joining the Army's ranks and are becoming experienced servicemen in a relatively short time. Party and Great Patriotic War veterans and the collectives of plants and factories are making a big contribution to the communist education of future soldiers, keeping up the glorious labor and combat traditions.

Closely united around the party and its Leninist Central Committee and seeing their people as an inexhaustible source of spiritual strength, our troops, loyal to the principles of socialist internationalism and the friendship of the peoples, are reliably watching over the Soviet people's peaceful labor.

VOROTNIKOV REPORTS TO RSFSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

LD121828 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 12 Mar 84

[Text] A session of the RSFSR Council of Ministers was held in Moscow today. The work of the republic's administrative and economic bodies in fulfilling the tasks set by the February CPSU Central Committee Plenum and the directions contained in the speech made by Comrade Chernenko, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, were discussed.

A report was delivered by Comrade Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. It was noted that in the first 2 months of the current year, the labor collectives of the Russian Federation had fulfilled the product sales plan 101.4 percent, and labor productivity had grown considerably. Positive progress in agriculture had been noted, especially in stock-breeding. New housing blocks, schools, hospitals, and other cultural and domestic buildings had been constructed.

Comrade Vorotnikov drew especial attention to the need to increase good organization, and to strengthen further state, labor, and production discipline. He said a key direction in the development of all branches of the national economy of the RSFSR must be a further intensification of production.

At the session, the Russian Federation was awarded the Challenge Red Banner of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the Komsomol Central Committee for the results of its industry's work in 1983.

NEW LENINGRAD GORKOM CHIEF DUMACHEV ELECTED

PM122026 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 Mar 84 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report under general heading: "Plenums Held"]

[Text] Leningrad -- A Leningrad Gorkom Plenum was held yesterday to examine an organizational question. In connection with the appointment of Yu.F. Solovyev as USSR minister of industrial construction, he was relieved of his duties as first secretary of the Leningrad Gorkom.

A.P. Dumachev, who was working as second secretary of the obkom, was elected first secretary of the Leningrad Gorkom.

ARTICLE LAUDS SUPREME SOVIET ELECTIONS

PM121016 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Mar 84 Morning Edition p 1

[Editorial: "The People's Deputies"]

[Text] On the first Sunday in spring -- 4 March -- the Soviet people cast their votes in the USSR Supreme Soviet elections for those who in the next 5 years are faced with solving on behalf of our entire people the most important questions of the country's life.

The voters' will was unanimous. The election results, as the CPSU Central Committee Politburo session noted, were vivid evidence of the universal support of working people and of all strata of Soviet society for the election platform of the unbreakable bloc of Communists and nonparty people which embodies Communist Party policy and the will and interests of the people. They convincingly demonstrate the Soviet people's profound interest in further strengthening the motherland's economic and defense might, improving the running of the national economy, and increasing discipline and order in all sectors of work.

Everywhere the elections were held in an atmosphere of high political activeness. Their progress and the voting results were greatly influenced by the masses' high spiritual mood evoked by the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) and February (1984) Plenums and the efficiency and organization of the entire election campaign. Conducting it was a truly nationwide affair from start to finish. Great, fruitful work was done by party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organs. Millions of Soviet citizens worked actively in electoral commissions and agitation collectives and as agents. Election meetings freely and comprehensively discussed the candidate deputies' political and professional qualities and the voters gave them their instructions.

As the Central Electoral Commission reported, the elections in all electoral okrugs were held in complete accordance with requirements of the USSR Constitution and the Law on USSR Supreme Soviet Elections. The electoral register included 184,029,412 voters. Exactly 184,006,373 people, or 99.99 percent of the total, took part in the voting. Candidate deputies to the Soviet of the Union received 99.94 percent of the votes cast, and candidates for the Soviet of Nationalities for union republics received 99.95 percent, for autonomous republics 99.89 percent, for autonomous oblasts 99.94 percent, and for autonomous okrugs 99.92 percent. This unanimous manifestation of the people's will vividly expresses the people's full support for the domestic and foreign policy of the Leninist party and the Soviet state and their ardent approval of the great and fruitful work of the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo.

The election results again demonstrate our society's indestructible ideological and sociopolitical unity, the great strength of the fraternal friendship between all the nations and ethnic groups of the land of the soviets, and the firmness of the alliance of the working class, kolkhoz peasantry, and people's intelligentsia. They clearly reaffirm that only under socialism does democracy become power of the people and for the people, and that only socialism guarantees people's equal civil and political rights. Working people in bourgeois society with its notorious "freedoms" for moneybags cannot even dream of this.

The fact that power in our country belongs to working people is borne out by the very composition of the USSR Supreme Soviet's 11th convocation. More than half its deputies are working and kolkhoz members, around one-third are women, over one-fourth are nonparty people, and 22 percent are young people 30 or under. The deputies represent all the republics and autonomous oblasts and okrugs.

These are truly the people's front-ranking and most prestigious representatives, their best sons and daughters. Among those elected by the people are the leaders of the Communist Party and the Soviet state, eminent production organizers, famous scientific and cultural figures, war and labor veterans, specialists in various sectors of the national economy, and Soviet Army and Navy personnel.

To be a deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet is a great honor. It is simultaneously an immense responsibility. In representing the people in the supreme organ of state power, those elected by the people participate in elaborating the most important decisions for the country's fate. There is no higher duty for a deputy than to warrant the voters' trust and always be equal to the tasks posed by life.

The fundamental tasks that the new convocation of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Government, and our entire people are faced with solving were precisely defined in the speech by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at his meeting with the voters of Moscow's Kuybyshevskiy Electoral Okrug. "We have very many jobs to do, "Konstantin Ustinovich said, "and pressing ones at that. We can and want to move forward faster. We can and must solve the problems of the economy's intensive development much more energetically. After all, it is only on this basis that the increasingly full satisfaction of the people's material and spiritual needs can be implemented." The closest attention must be devoted to carrying out the voters' instructions and implementing the proposals and remarks made by citizens in the course of the election campaign. Herein lies the essence of socialist democracy -- people's power not in words, but in fact.

The USSR Supreme Soviet 11th convocation is embarking on its work in a period of decisive struggle to fulfill the plans outlined by the 26th CPSU Congress and the 11th 5-year Plan targets. It is now necessary to consolidate and develop the positive trends that emerged in the country's national economy last year and in the first months of this year and ensure a steady and dynamic upsurge of the economy and its efficiency. To do this we are faced with strengthening order and organization still further and continuing to improve the management of the economy and the restructuring of the economic mechanism.

The deputies of the supreme organ of state power are also faced with defining the program for the next 5-year period, which must fully embody the party's economic policy and incorporate the latest achievements of science and leading experience. "The new 5-year plan," K.U. Chernenko noted, "must be above all the start of profound qualitative changes in production, a 5-year plan that marks a decisive breakthrough in the cause of intensifying all sectors of our national economy. The modern material-technical base and management system must acquire new, higher qualities."

The role of the organs of people's power -- from the USSR Supreme Soviet down to settlement and rural soviets -- in all the country's numerous concerns, is immense. Involving conscientious, politically mature, and creatively-minded citizens increasingly widely in state affairs, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee pointed out, is the key to new successes in their work. The aktiv of our soviets today numbers tens of millions of people. It is necessary for the aktiv to be truly active.

Soviets at all levels must do more to coordinate the activity of the enterprises of various sectors located on their territory and step up monitoring of the comprehensive development of their regions, of consumer goods production and the work of the services sphere, of environmental conservation, and of the resolution of other questions.

After all, by its very nature Soviet democracy is an operating, working democracy. Its expansion and improvement are an important guarantee of our further progress.

Our deputies are of the people through and through. They work in the fields and at machine tools, erect the buildings of new cities, balze trails in space, create works of art, and defend the motherland's borders. They have earned the right to the voters' trust through their communist attitude to their labor and service duties and their high concept of public duty. There is no doubt that this trust will be fully warranted, and, as required by the law on the status of deputies, our elected representatives of the people will faithfully serve the fatherland's interests and the cause of building communism.

The people's unanimous and firm support for the political course of the Leninist party is a reliable guarantee that the plans of communist construction will be successfully implemented.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER AT LENINGRAD CEREMONY

PM091504 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Feb 84 p 1

[LENTASS report: "For the Good of the Beloved Fatherland; Meeting of Party, Soviet, Trade Union, and Komsomol Aktiv With Representatives of Working People's Collectives From Leningrad City and Oblast."]

[Excerpt] For the achievement of high results in all-union socialist competition and the successful fulfillment of the state plan for the economic and social development of the USSR in 1983, the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU, and the Komsomol Central Committee have awarded Challenge Red Banners to Leningrad City and Leningrad Oblast.

A meeting of the party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol aktiv and representatives of working people's collectives from Leningrad City and Oblast devoted to the presentation of the motherland's high awards was held yesterday in the Tavricheskiy Palace. The USSR state anthem was solemnly played.

The meeting participants enthusiastically elected an honorary presidium comprising the CPSU Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade K.U. Chernenko, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The floor was given to Hero of Socialist Labor N.V. Martynov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

RADIO MINISTRY OFFICIAL DIES IN CAR CRASH

PM121510 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 6 Mar 84 p 4

[Obituary of Yevgeniy Andreyevich Roshchin]

[Excerpts] Yevgeniy Andreyevich Roshchin, collegium member and chief of a main administration of the Ministry of the Radio Industry and CPSU members since 1964, died tragically in a car accident 2 March 1984.

Yevgeniy Andreyevich Roshchin was born 3 January 1935 in the village of Yeskino in Sankovskiy Rayon, Kalinin Oblast. After graduating from the Leningrad Institute of Aviation Instrument Building, he began his labor activity in 1961 working in engineering and leadership posts in a scientific research institute, and from 1969 through 1973 as party committee secretary at a science and production association. From 1974 through 1981 he worked as general director of a production association, and from 1981 was a collegium member and chief of a main administration of the Ministry of the Radio Industry.

LENIN'S WORKS TO BE PUBLISHED IN CHINESE

PM121102 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Mar 84 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Publication of V.I. Lenin's Complete Collected Works in PRC"]

[Text] Beijing, 8 Mar -- The newspaper RENMIN RIBAO reports that the CPC Central Committee has decided to issue a second edition of V.I. Lenin's complete collected works in Chinese. It is planned to publish the first four volumes in 1984. After that, 10 volumes will be printed each year. It is planned to complete the publication of all 60 volumes in 1990. Subscription to the complete collected works of V.I. Lenin has been at Chinese book stores.

BRIEFS

FRIENDSHIP ORDER DECREED -- We have received a decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on the award to correspondent member of the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences Boris Dmirtiyevich Petrov of the Order of Peoples' Friendship in recognition of the scientist's services to the development of medical science and people's health and on his 80th birthday. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1930 GMT 3 Mar 84 LD]

NEW UZBEKISTAN JOURNAL -- SOVETSKIY UZBEKISTAN -- This is the title of a journal, the first edition of which arrived today at kiosks in Tashkent and other towns in the Uzbek, Russian, Arabic, English, Spanish, German, Farsi, French, Urdu and Old Uzbek [as heard] languages. It will cast light on the achievements of Uzbekistan in the development of the economy, science and culture, and also on the republic's extensive international links. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 4 Mar 84 LD]

NEW POSTAGE STAMP -- Moscow March 9 TASS -- A postage stamp marking the 50th birth anniversary of Yuriy Gagarin was put into circulation today -- the birthday of the world's first cosmonaut. Gagarin's portrait is reproduced on the stamp against the background of a stylized presentation of a man conquering outer space. Close by is the "Vostok" spaceship on which the cosmonaut made his historical flight. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 1558 GMT 9 Mar 84 LD]

NEW TELEVISION STATION -- Over 70 percent of the inhabitants of Pamir can today watch central television. A few days ago a new, 40th television station of the Ekran system was commissioned, making it possible to watch programs in more areas of Pamir. [Summary] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2304 GMT 9 Mar 84 LD]

UZBEK WORKERS POPULATION -- The Uzbek Central Statistics Department has disclosed that the number of workers in Uzbekistan now totals 1.6 million. Thousands of workers in the Uzbek SSR are improving their skills in courses organized in factories and work sites every year. Such courses are free of charge. [Summary] [Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 21 Feb 84 GF]

PROGRESS, SHORTCOMINGS OF CURRENT YEAR PLAN NOTED

LD102205 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1530 GMT 10 Mar 84

[From the Vremya newscast; video talk by political observer Viktor Beketov: "Keeping Your Word"]

[Excerpts] At the start of the year our press published counterplans and socialist pledges of working collectives for the fourth year of the 5-year plan. An example of constant faithfulness to one's word can be seen in Moscow's best working collectives. This is not easy, if you take into account the city's growing pledges. Thus, this year it is planned to produce extra output worth hundreds of millions of rubles, including a 1/4 billion's worth of high-quality consumer goods, and moreover the whole increase in production will be ensured by raising labor productivity. The means to this end have been defined also: accelerated mechanization and automation of production processes, distribution of front-ranking experience, and development of the brigade form of labor organization and incentive. The energetic start made by Muscovites at the beginning of the year helped them to successfully fulfill the plan for the first 2 months.

Good news is coming from enterprises of Donetsk Oblast. Promotion of competition is reliably supported here by a comprehensive system of managing the introduction of front-ranking experience. It is not enough just to publish the best ways and means of work, the Donetsk people decided. The results of the work of competitors must be assessed depending on who did best in making use of front-ranking experience, spotted it in time, studied seriously, and introduced it skillfully.

An examination in independence and business management -- this is how the participation of enterprises of a number of ministries in the major economic experiment being held from 1 January this year is being described. Taking its results into consideration, measures will be defined for expanding the rights and increasing the responsibilities of all production collectives for the results of their activity in the 12th 5-Year Plan. Hence, the special attention to the progress of the experiment and its first results. From the outset, many collectives skillfully used the rights which were granted. Thus, at Minsk Electrical Engineering Works, the dispatch of ready output has been speeded up, hundreds of thousands of rubles of extra output has been marketed, and the pledges for deliveries have been completely fulfilled. But enterprises of the same Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry located in Estonia marked the start of the experiment with a sharp reduction in production indices. This means that in Estonia they made poor preparation for the experiment and did not display enterprise and initiative.

The appeal to fulfill the tasks with minimum expenditure is still urgent. But in a number of industries, for instance in power and transportation, fuel wastage is still great; far from everywhere is production waste used. The economy drive is hampered by poor accounting of expenditure and losses, and by weak propaganda citing examples of thrift.

BRIEFS

UZBEK COTTON SEEDS -- The Uzbek Ministry of Agriculture has disclosed that over 250,000 tons of high quality cotton seeds have been prepared for cultivation during the forthcoming season. All the seeds have been acquired from the best varieties of cotton grown by Uzbek seed-growing experts. Uzbekistan is one of the main cotton growing republics in the Soviet Union and as such, it is cultivating cotton on over 2 million hectares of land. Uzbek cotton growers harvest not less than 6 million tons of cotton every season. [Text] [Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 1 Mar 84 GF]

KIRGHIZ EXPORTS TO MPR -- The cloth factory in Frunze, the capital of Kirghiz SSR, has exported a consignment of its products to the MPR. (Kuteygeyev), chairman of the Kirghiz Chamber of Commerce, has informed the Tashkent radio correspondent that Kirghiz industrial factories are exporting agricultural machinery, electrotechnical tools, and precision instruments to the MPR. Nearly 40 factories in the Kirghiz SSR are exporting to the MPR, thus increasing the volume of trade. The MPR exports wool, ores, [word indistinct], and other (?handicraft) products to the Kirghiz SSR. [Text] [Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 1 Mar 84 GF]

KAZAKH IRRIGATION -- The eastern deserts in the Kazakh SSR are being converted into irrigated lands. In accordance with the recommendations of scientists in Kazakh SSR, a total of 1.5 million hectares of land have been reclaimed in the arid desert regions in eastern Kazakhstan. A number of water installations have been set up and water has been acquired from the Irtysh River for irrigation. A number of dams have been built as well. Naturally, all this has been made possible through the funds made available from the budget of the Kazakh SSR. Irrigated lands have been distributed to farmers free of charge. Currently, 2 million hectares of land are being irrigated in Kazakhstan. This figure is three times more than the amount in Kazakhstan prior to the establishment of Soviet sovereignty. [Text] [Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 1 Mar 84 GF]

RAZDHAN POWER STATION AWARDED -- The collective of the Razdhan state central power station concluded the 1983 plan successfully and produced 43.8 million kwh of electric energy above the plan. Due to its achievements the power station was recognized as winner of all-union socialist emulation and awarded the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, Trade Unions Council, and Komsomol Central Committee Order of the Red Banner. A meeting was held to present the high award of all-union socialist emulation. Comrade Voskanyan, secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, made a speech and presented the Order of the Red Banner to the winners of the emulation. [Summary] [Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 1830 GMT 6 Mar 84 GF]

ARMENIAN COLLECTIVE AWARDED -- Due to its achievements in 1983, the Construction and Repair Trust collective of Leninakan City Soviet Executive Committee has been recognized as winner in all-union socialist emulation and awarded with the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the Trade Unions Council, and Komsomol Central Committee Order of the Red Banner. A meeting was held at Muradyan state dramatic threatre to present the award. Donara Arutyunyan, first secretary of Leninakan City Party Committee, presented the Order of the Red Banner to the winners of the emulation. [Summary] [Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 1830 GMT 6 Mar 84 GF]

AGRICULTURAL COMPLEX PANEL NOTES MANY PROBLEMS

PM120928 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 25 Feb 84 p 3

[Unattributed report: "To Enhance Responsibility for the Fulfillment of Plans"]

[Text] A routine session of the USSR Council of Ministers Presidium Commission for Questions of the Agro-industrial Complex has examined a number of questions connected with realizing the targets of the USSR Food Program.

Yu.M. Khusainov, deputy chairman of the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers, and A.G. Ovtov, deputy chairman of Penza Oblispolkom, reported on progress in wintering livestock and fulfilling plans for the production of livestock products.

It was pointed out that livestock and poultry productivity increased somewhat on the Belorussian SSR and Penza Oblast kolkhozes and sovkhozes in the winter period, as did sales of milk and meat to the state, compared with the corresponding period of 1982-1983. At the same time, the commission drew attention to inadequate work in utilizing existing reserves and the potential for increasing production of livestock products. Certain agro-industrial associations still do not display proper concern for creating a sound feed base and making economical use of food stocks on farms.

More than half the livestock-raising units in Penza Oblast do not have feed shops. Concentrated feed still accounts for a considerable proportion of the total consumption, and insufficient hay, silage, straw, and root crops are procured and utilized. Progressive forms of labor organization and, in particular, the flow-shop system of production, are being introduced in livestock raising only slowly.

The necessary work is not being done in the Belorussian SSR to improve the economic activity of laggard kolkhozes and sovkhozes or to increase meat and milk production among the population and on enterprises' subsidiary plots. Agricultural technology organizations poorly tackle the technical servicing of livestock units, complexes, and poultry factories.

The commission demanded that the leaders and specialists of Belorussian SSR and Penza Oblast agro-industrial associations very quickly eliminate the shortcomings in the wintering of livestock and take measures for the unconditional fulfillment and overfulfillment of the state plans set for 1984 for procurements of livestock products.

The question of progress in realizing the USSR Government's decisions on developing the production of lime materials and their supply to agriculture was examined. The USSR Ministries of Agriculture, Construction Materials Industry, Construction, Industrial Construction, Rural Construction, and Transport Construction were reprimanded for underrating the CPSU Central Committee May (1982) Plenum decisions on improving soil fertility by increasing the volume of work on chemical amelioration.

Attaching exceptionally great significance to implementing measures in agriculture for the deoxidation of soil, the appropriate ministries and departments were instructed to take specific measures to increase the supply of lime materials to agriculture to 63 million metric tons in 1985 and to 80 million metric tons in 1990, as defined in the USSR Food Program.

By way of monitoring, a report was heard from the USSR Ministries of Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry, Industrial Construction, and Construction on progress in constructing installations for the production of the liquid paraffins needed to increase production of protein and other feed additives. Special attention was paid to accelerating the commissioning of installations for the production of liquid paraffins at the Kremenchug, Novoufimskiy, Syzran, and Novogorkovskiy Oil refineries.

The commission adopted a decision to put in order work on draining and preparing marshes for peat extraction.

The question of the state of affairs regarding the production of utilization of the products of reindeer-raising and hunting establishments [olenevodchesko-promyslovyye khozyaystva] in regions of the Far North was also examined. The RSFSR Council of Ministers and the appropriate ministries and departments were entrusted with taking additional measures aimed at the balanced development of agriculture, processing enterprises, and other sectors of the agro-industrial complex in northern regions of the RSFSR.

The commission strictly censured cases of violations in using the profits of state agricultural enterprises in Vitebsk Oblast.